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No. 157

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 2, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRADLEY BYRNE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE COMMUNITY OF EL CAMPO, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the community of El Campo, Texas.

Recently, while surveying crop damage from Hurricane Harvey in and around El Campo, two members of my staff and one USDA staffer were involved in a serious car accident. They were immediately transported to El Campo Memorial Hospital, where they

received exemplary care and were later discharged. As the stories from the day later unfolded, I was struck by the outpouring of kindness and generosity of the many farmers, ranchers, and community members of El Campo.

This is a town and a community that is still recovering in the wake of Hurricane Harvey—a community that has suffered tremendous losses over the past month. Yet, without a second thought, area farmers and ranchers lined up in the hospital waiting room offering spare bedrooms, meals, and transportation for my staff.

These were producers who, in some cases, had never met my team, but who felt compelled to lend a hand to those in need.

America is hurting right now. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria have wreaked havoc in States and cities across our Nation; and the good citizens of Las Vegas are dealing with another disaster of a different making. Nevertheless, folks are hurting there as well.

We need look no further than the compassion of those bighearted farmers, ranchers, and first responders of El Campo, Texas, to understand America's strength and resolve. They make Texas strong. They make America strong. Together, we will get through all of our challenges.

May God continue to bless Texas, and may God bless the United States of America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROE of Tennessee) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this people's House for the leadership of our Nation.

Lord, once again, our Nation reels in grief and horror after yet another mass shooting on our soil. We ask Your blessing upon us all, but most especially on those who mourn the loss of their loved ones. Have mercy on all Your children who died.

The debates will, once again, ensue. Speed us to the day when the wisdom of Solomon might inspire our congressional Members beyond the limitations of sound bites and platitudes before more and more American citizens are deprived of their lives.

Lord, the suffering of our world is all around us. Stimulate our hearts and minds so that everything we may do this day would be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SOUTH CAROLINA GUARD EFFORTS IN PUERTO RICO

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with the families impacted by the massacre in Las Vegas. We are blessed with courageous law enforcement.

I am extremely grateful to the South Carolina National Guard for sending nearly 150 engineer soldiers to assist Puerto Rico in relief efforts after Hurricane Maria. This was a devastating storm for the people of Puerto Rico, and they have been in our thoughts and prayers each and every day.

These dedicated soldiers are part of a multi-State engineer task force with North Carolina, Louisiana, and New York Army National Guards. They will be assisting in clearing roads, debris, and working to reach areas that have been deemed unreachable due to the storm. They will also work on restoring infrastructure.

As a veteran of the South Carolina Army National Guard and the father of three sons who have served in the Guard, I am grateful that our State is able to assist the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico in their time of need. On my visits to San Juan, I have been very impressed by its dynamic citizens.

I am very appreciative of the leadership of South Carolina Adjutant General Robert Livingston, the experienced South Carolina Army National Guard members, as well as the leadership of Governor Henry McMaster.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

ALL THINGS HAVE THEIR TIME

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is in mourning. Many hearts are bleeding.

Mr. Speaker, there is much suffering. Lives have been lost in a senseless and needless manner in Las Vegas.

Mr. Speaker, there is a right time for all things. This is a time for our Nation to mourn and for hearts to heal.

Mr. Speaker, I announce that impeachment is postponed. Let us mourn, and let us heal.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 29, 2017, at 9:53 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 770.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2519.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore HARRIS on Friday, September 29, 2017:

H.R. 2519, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion;

H.R. 3823, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to provide disaster tax relief, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. REED) at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL RIGHTS ACT OF 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2316) to

amend the Mineral Leasing Act and the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to repeal provisions relating only to the Allegheny National Forest.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2316

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF PROVISIONS REGARDING THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST.

(a) REPEAL.—Subsection (c) of section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) and section 2508 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486; 106 Stat. 3108) are repealed.

(b) NOTICE REQUIREMENT NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed or interpreted—

(1) to limit, modify, or otherwise affect the existing requirement to provide in writing 60-day advance notice of specific activities in accordance with the order dated December 16, 1980, in the case United States of America v. Minard Run Oil Company, 1980 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 9570 (W.D. Pa., Dec. 16, 1980); or

(2) to limit existing authority of the Forest Service under provisions of law codified in section 551 of title 16, United States Code.

(c) PERMITTING AUTHORITY NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed or interpreted to alter, repeal, or otherwise limit the existing authority of the Forest Service to permit the harvest or sale of timber derived from the Allegheny National Forest.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank leadership for allowing H.R. 2316 to come to the floor.

The Allegheny National Forest, located in my district in northwestern Pennsylvania, is located near the first commercial oil discovery in the country. The Allegheny National Forest is Pennsylvania's only national forest and, since its creation in 1923, has been home to numerous recreational and commercial activities.

Oil and gas has been produced from privately owned subsurface minerals within the forest for decades, and mineral owners worked cooperatively with the Forest Service to safely produce oil and gas within the national forest boundaries.

Mineral owners routinely provided 60-day notification of drilling plans

prior to the commencement of operations, and the Forest Service then issued a notice to proceed, or NTP. However, in 2006, the Forest Service deemed issuance of an NTP to be a major Federal action that triggered the application of the National Environmental Policy Act.

This designation requires a full environmental analysis of the Allegheny National Forest, and environmental groups were quick to sue the Forest Service to enforce the new rule. After settling with these groups, the Forest Service issued a moratorium when issuing NTPs until the full environmental analysis was completed. This moratorium had immediate and severe impacts on the mineral rights owners, who were unfairly denied access to their mineral property.

The oil and gas industry sued, claiming that the Forest Service did not have the authority to preclude the development of privately owned minerals, and in 2009 the U.S. District Court of Western Pennsylvania agreed and lifted the moratorium in the Allegheny National Forest. The lower court's decision was confirmed on appeal in 2013. This bill fully repeals the invalidated language from the Mineral Leasing Act and the Energy Policy Act of 1992 in accordance with these court decisions.

Throughout the litigation, the Forest Service claimed section 2508 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, codified in the Mineral Leasing Act, provided them with the authority to restrict mineral development. It is critical to strike this language. Had this regulation not been challenged, over 11 million acres of split estate minerals throughout the country would have been locked up, devastating mineral owners and local and State economies.

A similar version of this bill passed the House during the 114th Congress, demonstrating the support for protecting private property rights in the Allegheny National Forest.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to implementing this crucial solution. I urge adoption of the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2316 is nearly identical to a bill that passed the House last year with overwhelming bipartisan support.

The intent of the bill, according to the sponsor, is to ensure that owners of mineral rights in the Allegheny National Forest are allowed to drill for their oil and gas within the boundaries of that national forest.

In the Natural Resources Committee last Congress, the majority accepted an amendment by Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Ranking Member LOWENTHAL that clarified the intent of the bill and ensured that the Forest Service would still receive advance notice of any oil and gas operations and that no other national forest would be affected.

So this bill is a bipartisan compromise that protects the private property rights while also protecting the rights of the Forest Service, and I thank the sponsor for working so cooperatively on this.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2316, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2316.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UDALL PARK LAND EXCHANGE COMPLETION ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1547) to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Tucson, Arizona, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest to the City.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1547

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CITY.—The term "City" means the city of Tucson, Arizona.

(2) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term "non-Federal land" means the approximately 172.8-acre parcel of City land identified in the patent numbered 02-90-0001 and dated October 4, 1989, and more particularly described as lots 3 and 4, S½NW¼, sec. 5, T.14S., R.15 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL REVERSIONARY INTEREST IN LAND LOCATED IN TUCSON, ARIZONA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall convey to the City, without consideration, the reversionary interests of the United States in and to the non-Federal land for the purpose of unencumbering the title to the non-Federal land to enable economic development of the non-Federal land.

(b) LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the exact legal descriptions of the non-Federal land shall be determined in a manner satisfactory to the Secretary.

(c) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions to the conveyance under subsection (a), consistent with that subsection, as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(d) COSTS.—The City shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance under sub-

section (a), consistent with that subsection, including the costs of any surveys, recording costs, and other reasonable costs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1547 completes the transfer of the Bureau of Land Management's reversionary interest in Udall Park, located in Tucson, Arizona, nearly three decades after the city donated \$4 million worth of land to the Bureau of Land Management to complete their portion of the exchange.

Twenty years after the exchange took place, the Bureau of Land Management threatened to invoke its reversionary interest because the city dared to hold a local farmers market in the park. The city of Tucson has invested millions of dollars in this community park, building swimming pools, recreation centers, and athletic fields, and it deserves to have clear title to the land and complete jurisdiction over the uses of the park.

The bill is bipartisan and has nearly unanimous support from the Arizona congressional delegation. I urge adoption of the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1547 transfers the reversionary interest associated with Udall Park to the city of Tucson, Arizona.

The land was transferred to the city back in the 1980s under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, a program that authorizes the conveyance of Federal land to local governments and nonprofits.

These conveyances include what is known as reversionary interest, which stipulates that the land must permanently remain in use for a public purpose or ownership reverts back to the United States.

Typically, if a recipient wants to convert the land to a nonpublic purpose, they have to compensate the Federal Government. However, this is not the typical situation.

In 1989, Tucson came to an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management. In exchange for the title to Udall Park, the city gave the Bureau of Land Management a 297-acre parcel known as the Freeman Road property.

A letter from the BLM State Director at the time indicates that the agency supported elimination of Udall Park's reversionary interest in exchange for the Freeman Road property. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, Congress never followed through on that promise.

This bill honors the Federal Government's long forgotten commitment, which is why we support it and encourage its swift adoption. The unique circumstances of Udall Park justify transferring the reversionary interest without further consideration or compensation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY).

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 1547, the Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act.

Udall Park is a cherished urban park in the heart of Tucson. The city has invested millions of dollars in park facilities, including construction of very large community recreation and senior centers, a large swimming pool, a walking track, and multiple athletic fields and picnic areas.

In 2011, the mayor and city council approved a master plan update that calls for plans to invest even more money into the park by way of additional athletic fields and expanded recreational programming. However, unresolved disputes over this land have directly impeded the city from taking advantage of opportunities to supplement park funding, approve certain community events, or look to other commercial ventures like local farmers markets on small portions of the park that would benefit the city in general.

The Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act resolves this historic land exchange agreement between the city of Tucson and the Bureau of Land Management at Udall Park.

In 1989, the city of Tucson and BLM entered into an agreement to exchange 297 acres of land adjacent to Saguaro National Park for 173 acres of BLM-owned land in northeast Tucson, now known as Udall Park. This agreement specifically outlined that the terms and conditions of this land conveyance would include a legislative fix to remove any and all encumbrances on Udall Park. Unfortunately, this legislation never came to fruition due to staff changes in multiple agencies in the city, and who knows what else, but as a result, the city has been prevented from utilizing Udall Park to its fullest extent. Recently, the issue came to a head over disputes on a small commercial lease located in Udall Park.

Federal red tape should not stand in the way of communities like mine developing local parks. It is common sense. Udall Park is a beautiful place in our southern Arizona community to gather, but this longstanding land dis-

pute has prevented the city of Tucson from improving the park and growing it to its full potential for too long.

When I am out and about in my district and people come to me with challenges and issues like this, the first question I usually ask is: Does this literally take an act of Congress to fix? Let me say that again. Does this literally take an act of Congress to fix? In this case, the answer is yes.

I appreciate, as we testified before the House Natural Resources Federal Land Subcommittee, the ranking member, Ms. HANABUSA, was saying, no kidding, in July: "If it takes an act of Congress to get this done . . . then that's what we've got to do."

I am with the ranking member at this point. It is time to finally take action and get this thing finished. My legislation would formally and finally complete a long overdue agreement on land that has already been exchanged at fair market value. The act directs conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest in Udall Park to the city, as the parties intended when the land exchange was made. This bill will allow Tucson to finally take full ownership of the park.

In closing, I want to thank Chairman BISHOP, Chairman MCCLINTOCK, and the members of the Natural Resources Committee, really, on both sides of the aisle, for working with me to move this legislation forward. This has got strong bipartisan support. I look forward to seeing this issue through and ensuring the land transfer is completed.

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on this issue.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1547.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1715

SAINT-GAUDENS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK REDESIGNATION ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 965) to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park", and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 965

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park Redesignation Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF SAINT-GAUDENS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site shall be known and designated as the "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park".

(b) *AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC LAW 88-543.*—Public Law 88-543 (78 Stat.749) is amended—

(1) *by striking "National Historic Site" each place it appears and inserting "National Historical Park";*

(2) *in section 2(a), by striking "historic site" and inserting "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park";*

(3) *in section 3, by—*

(A) *striking "national historical site" and inserting "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park"; and*

(B) *striking "part of the site" and inserting "part of the park"; and*

(4) *in section 4(b), by striking "traditional to the site" and inserting "traditional to the park".*

(c) *REFERENCES.*—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site shall be considered to be a reference to the "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Augustus Saint-Gaudens is one of the most prolific sculptors in our Nation's history. His work includes Boston's Robert Gould Shaw Memorial, Chicago's Standing Lincoln, and New York's William Tecumseh Sherman Memorial. Most notably, Saint-Gaudens designed a \$20 double eagle gold piece for the U.S. Mint, considered one of the greatest American coins ever issued.

The Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site is a 190-acre historic site in Sullivan County, New Hampshire. The site encompasses the summer home and studio of this renowned American artist, whose annual presence in Sullivan County helped spawn the Cornish Artist Colony in nearby Cornish, New Hampshire. This colony, which was

comprised of painters, sculptors, and musicians, helped drive a period of American artistic resurgence called the American Renaissance in the years following the Civil War.

The main house and surrounding gardens were initially designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1962, which was converted to a National Historic Site in 1964, when the grounds were donated to the National Park Service. The current property contains 21 buildings, a number of Saint-Gaudens' sculptures, and miles of hiking trails.

This bill simply changes the designation of Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site to a National Historical Park, allowing the National Park Service to better relay the impact and legacy of this historic American artist.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 965, introduced by Representative KUSTER of New Hampshire, redesignates a site in her State as the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park, a critical name change that recognizes the cultural and historical importance of that landscape.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens was a key-stone figure in the 19th century American Renaissance of art and architecture. Since 1977, the home, studio, gardens, and artwork of this American icon have been managed and preserved by the National Park Service as part of the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire.

One of Saint-Gaudens' most well-known creations is the Shaw Memorial in Boston. This sculpture memorializes the bravery of Robert Gould Shaw, who led the first regiment of African-American soldiers recruited from the North during the Civil War. However, this is just one of the many public monuments credited to Saint-Gaudens, many of which are preserved and managed by the National Park Service at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site.

In 2010, however, the National Park Service acquired the adjacent Blow-Me-Down Farm, an important meeting place for the Cornish Art Colony led by Saint-Gaudens. The acquisition of the farm allows the site to fulfill its vision as a national park for the arts. The expanded physical size and historical scope is better defined as a National Historic Park rather than a National Historical Site, which is usually reserved for a single building or other stand-alone structure.

Importantly, this redesignation will not change any laws or policies affecting the site and will only require changes in signage, maps, and handouts. Therefore, redesignating this area as Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park conforms to naming standards used by the National Park Service and further honors the legacy of Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

In addition to preserving Saint-Gaudens' legacy, the site also protects a variety of important ecosystems. The site is bordered by two streams that feed into the Connecticut River, and it contains a large forest and pond where visitors can observe wildlife.

Representative KUSTER introduced H.R. 965 with the support of the entire New Hampshire delegation, and I would like to thank her for her dedication to protecting the historic areas important to her State and our national story.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER), the author of this fine piece of legislation.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MCEACHIN for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of H.R. 965, the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park Redesignation Act.

Named after the great American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, this historic site, located in Cornish, New Hampshire, has preserved his home and working studios since it was established in 1965.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens was born in Dublin, Ireland, and immigrated to America with his parents when he was just 6 months old. It was at a young age when Augustus developed a strong interest in sculpting, which set him on a path to Paris and Rome, where he studied art and architecture and worked on his very first commission.

In 1876, Saint-Gaudens was tapped for his first of several prominent Civil War-related commissions, which include the Standing Lincoln statue of our 16th President. At over 12 feet tall, this historic landmark stands prominently in Chicago's Lincoln Park. After working on the statue for close to a decade, the towering piece was unveiled in 1887 to a crowd of over 10,000 people, including President Lincoln's only living grandson.

His most famous work was commissioned soon after: the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial, a bronze bas-relief which took Saint-Gaudens 14 years to complete. Located in Boston Common, this iconic sculpture depicts Colonel Shaw and the 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, which was the first African-American regiment organized by the Union in the Civil War.

As one of the foremost American sculptors of the 19th century, Saint-Gaudens left a lasting legacy on our country's artistic heritage, which continues to be cherished at our historic site in Cornish.

Since its authorization by Congress in 1964 and establishment a year later, the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site has blossomed into a popular tourist attraction and location for local artists and musicians to share their talents. However, the present name, which designates this location as a his-

toric site, is no longer the most appropriate or useful to accurately portray the complexity of this site.

Whereas, National Historic Sites are typically designated for single buildings or sites that only encompass a few acres in size, the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site is 190 acres in size and includes multiple buildings, a vast collection of American art, and a small trail network that allows visitors to explore the grounds.

My legislation would simply redesignate Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site to Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park, which would more accurately illustrate all that the park has to offer.

In partnership with the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, a private nonprofit that operated the site until it donated the land to the National Park Service in 1965, this historic site offers rotating contemporary and historical exhibitions, concerts, hands-on workshops, lectures, and many other educational opportunities for our visitors.

The array of recreational activities offered to visitors makes this park much more than a historic site. It is a living remembrance to the great American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens and the artistic legacy that he has left behind. It is my hope that this proposed name change will help attract more interest in the park, boost annual visitation, and help drive our local economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to pass this legislation.

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, having no one else to speak on this issue, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I encourage support for this piece of legislation and thank the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) for putting this forward, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 965, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONFIRMING STATE LAND GRANTS FOR EDUCATION ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2582) to authorize the State of Utah to select certain lands that are available for disposal under the Pony Express Resource

Management Plan to be used for the support and benefit of State institutions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2582

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Confirming State Land Grants for Education Act”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to valid existing rights, the State of Utah may select any lands in T6S and T7S, R1W, Salt Lake Base and Meridian, that are owned by the United States, under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and identified as available for disposal by land exchange in the Record of Decision for the Pony Express Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary for Utah County (January 1990), as amended by the Pony Express Plan Amendment (November 1997), in fulfillment of the land grants made in sections 6, 8, and 12 of the Act of July 16, 1894 (28 Stat. 107) as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Utah County Quantity Grants” and dated June 27, 2017, to further the purposes of the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, without further land use planning action by the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) *APPLICATION.*—The criteria listed in Decision 3 of the Lands Program of the resource management plan described in subsection (a) shall not apply to any land selected under subsection (a).

(c) *EFFECT ON LIMITATION.*—Nothing in this Act affects the limitation established under section 2815(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106–65).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2582, introduced by the gentlewoman from Utah (Mrs. LOVE), seeks to resolve an ongoing standoff between the State of Utah and the Bureau of Land Management over statehood-era land grants to promote responsible land management and enable the United States to fulfill its commitments to provide land for the support of Utah's higher education system.

Since 1998, the Bureau of Land Management has cited an administrative technicality to favor land exchanges

over State selections of land, which has held up the State of Utah's selection of roughly 500 acres of Bureau of Land Management land classified for disposal.

The land in question has been selected by the State for the benefit of Utah State University, and this bill makes it clear that State selections are equally acceptable as land exchanges and would confirm that the Bureau of Land Management may process the State's current selection as well as future State selections in the immediate area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2582 authorizes the Bureau of Land Management to process the State of Utah's land claims without amending existing planning documents.

The Utah State Enabling Act of 1894 authorized the State of Utah to select certain lands to support schools and other public purposes. Approximately 2,000 acres of authorized grants are unfilled.

In 1998, the State started the application to acquire 440 acres of land in Utah County, Utah, to support Utah State University. BLM eventually rejected the application because the lands are identified for disposal by exchange, which only allows BLM to convey the land under certain conditions.

This bill allows the agency to process these specific claims without updating the underlying planning documents, something that would take a significant amount of time and money. BLM testified in support of this legislation but requested an amendment to clarify that the lands will be used for Utah State University and the addition of a legislative map.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Utah (Mrs. LOVE), the State of Utah, and the Republican Committee staff for working with us to address these concerns. Thanks to their consideration, we were able to amend this bill in markup to address these concerns.

There are many fights over public lands in this country, but this does not have to be one of them. Mr. Speaker, I support the bill and urge its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Utah (Mrs. LOVE).

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for supporting this legislation.

More than 120 years ago, the Utah Enabling Act, which enabled my State—now the greatest State in the country—to be admitted into the Union, was approved. This granted Utah the right to select acreage to support various public institutions, including public schools and universities. Now, 123 years later, much of the acre-

age made available for State selection remains outstanding.

The BLM's Pony Express Resource Management Plan governs management practices for public lands in Utah's Tooele, Utah, and Salt Lake Counties. It has identified thousands of acres within the plan's area as available for disposal. The State can presently obtain these lands via land exchange. However, the resource management plan does not explicitly state that these lands can be obtained using the unfulfilled land credits granted by the Utah Enabling Act.

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My bill, the Confirming State Land Grants for Education Act, would simply amend the Pony Express RMP to allow the State of Utah to use outstanding land grant credits to obtain lands within the limited area of RMP that already has been identified available for disposal.

This solution would satisfy both the State and Federal Government and help to keep the promises made to the State of Utah for more than 120 years. More importantly, it would ultimately raise funds for the benefit of Utah students by allowing Utah's School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, SITLA, to manage these lands for the benefit of students. As Utah finds more ways to fund public schools and public education, this bill helps provide much-needed resources.

Notably, the passage of H.R. 2582 would not convey any land on its own. Existing conveyance processes would still apply.

Additionally, my bill does not dictate land use policies once the land is conveyed. As a former mayor, I respect the State and local officials and processes, and I certainly have no desire to supersede them. My bill is merely meant to facilitate the process that enables conveyance through the use of available selection credits. It was voted out of committee by unanimous consent, and I urge this body to show similar support today.

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I would just remind the gentlewoman from Utah that the only reason that she can suggest that Utah is the greatest State in the Nation is because Virginia is a Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, being from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2582, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNITY RECLAMATION PARTNERSHIPS ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2937) to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize partnerships between States and non-governmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2937

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Community Reclamation Partnerships Act".

SEC. 2. REFERENCE.

Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to a provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a provision of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.).

SEC. 3. STATE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING FOR CERTAIN REMEDIATION.

(a) MEMORANDA AUTHORIZED.—Section 405 (30 U.S.C. 1235) is amended by inserting after subsection (l) the following:

"(m) STATE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING FOR REMEDIATION OF MINE DRAINAGE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A State with a State program approved under subsection (d) may enter into a memorandum of understanding with relevant Federal or State agencies (or both) to remediate mine drainage on abandoned mine land and water impacted by abandoned mines within the State. The memorandum may be updated as necessary and resubmitted for approval under this subsection.

"(2) MEMORANDA REQUIREMENTS.—Such memorandum shall establish a strategy satisfactory to the State and Federal agencies that are parties to the memorandum, to address water pollution resulting from mine drainage at sites eligible for reclamation and mine drainage abatement expenditures under section 404, including specific procedures for—

"(A) ensuring that activities carried out to address mine drainage will result in improved water quality;

"(B) monitoring, sampling, and the reporting of collected information as necessary to achieve the condition required under subparagraph (A);

"(C) operation and maintenance of treatment systems as necessary to achieve the condition required under subparagraph (A); and

"(D) other purposes, as considered necessary by the State or Federal agencies, to achieve the condition required under subparagraph (A).

"(3) PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Before submitting a memorandum to the Secretary and the Administrator for approval, a State shall—

"(i) invite interested members of the public to comment on the memorandum; and

"(ii) hold at least one public meeting concerning the memorandum in a location or locations reasonably accessible to persons who may be affected by implementation of the memorandum.

"(B) NOTICE OF MEETING.—The State shall publish notice of each meeting not less than

15 days before the date of the meeting, in local newspapers of general circulation, on the Internet, and by any other means considered necessary or desirable by the Secretary and the Administrator.

"(4) SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL.—The State shall submit the memorandum to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for approval. The Secretary and the Administrator shall approve or disapprove the memorandum within 120 days after the date of its submission if the Secretary and Administrator find that the memorandum will facilitate additional activities under the State Reclamation Plan under subsection (e) that improve water quality.

"(5) TREATMENT AS PART OF STATE PLAN.—A memorandum of a State that is approved by the Secretary and the Administrator under this subsection shall be considered part of the approved abandoned mine reclamation plan of the State.

"(n) COMMUNITY RECLAIMER PARTNERSHIPS.—

"(1) PROJECT APPROVAL.—Within 120 days after receiving such a submission, the Secretary shall approve a Community Reclaimer project to remediate abandoned mine lands if the Secretary finds that—

"(A) the proposed project will be conducted by a Community Reclaimer as defined in this subsection or approved subcontractors of the Community Reclaimer;

"(B) for any proposed project that remediates mine drainage, the proposed project is consistent with an approved State memorandum of understanding under subsection (m);

"(C) the proposed project will be conducted on a site or sites inventoried under section 403(c);

"(D) the proposed project meets all submission criteria under paragraph (2);

"(E) the relevant State has entered into an agreement with the Community Reclaimer under which the State shall assume all responsibility with respect to the project for any costs or damages resulting from any action or inaction on the part of the Community Reclaimer in carrying out the project, except for costs or damages resulting from gross negligence or intentional misconduct by the Community Reclaimer, on behalf of—

"(i) the Community Reclaimer; and

"(ii) the owner of the proposed project site, if such Community Reclaimer or owner, respectively, did not participate in any way in the creation of site conditions at the proposed project site or activities that caused any lands or waters to become eligible for reclamation or drainage abatement expenditures under section 404;

"(F) the State has the necessary legal authority to conduct the project and will obtain all legally required authorizations, permits, licenses, and other approvals to ensure completion of the project;

"(G) the State has sufficient financial resources to ensure completion of the project, including any necessary operation and maintenance costs (including costs associated with emergency actions covered by a contingency plan under paragraph (2)(K)); and

"(H) the proposed project is not in a category of projects that would require a permit under title V.

"(2) PROJECT SUBMISSION.—The State shall submit a request for approval to the Secretary that shall include—

"(A) a description of the proposed project, including any engineering plans that must bear the seal of a Professional Engineer;

"(B) a description of the proposed project site or sites, including, if relevant, the nature and extent of pollution resulting from mine drainage;

"(C) identification of the past and current owners and operators of the proposed project site;

"(D) the agreement or contract between the relevant State and the Community Reclaimer to carry out the project;

"(E) a determination that the project will facilitate the activities of the State reclamation plan under subsection (e);

"(F) sufficient information to determine whether the Community Reclaimer has the technical capability and expertise to successfully conduct the proposed project;

"(G) a cost estimate for the project and evidence that the Community Reclaimer has sufficient financial resources to ensure the successful completion of the proposed project (including any operation or maintenance costs);

"(H) a schedule for completion of the project;

"(I) an agreement between the Community Reclaimer and the current owner of the site governing access to the site;

"(J) sufficient information to ensure that the Community Reclaimer meets the definition under paragraph (3);

"(K) a contingency plan designed to be used in response to unplanned adverse events that includes emergency actions, response, and notifications; and

"(L) a requirement that the State provide notice to adjacent and downstream landowners and the public and hold a public meeting near the proposed project site before the project is initiated.

"(3) COMMUNITY RECLAIMER DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term 'Community Reclaimer' means any person who—

"(A) seeks to voluntarily assist a State with a reclamation project under this section;

"(B) did not participate in any way in the creation of site conditions at the proposed project site or activities that caused any lands or waters to become eligible for reclamation or drainage abatement expenditures under section 404;

"(C) is not a past or current owner or operator of any site with ongoing reclamation obligations; and

"(D) is not subject to outstanding violations listed pursuant to section 510(c)."

SEC. 4. CLARIFYING STATE LIABILITY FOR MINE DRAINAGE PROJECTS.

Section 413(d) (30 U.S.C. 1242(d)) is amended in the second sentence by inserting "unless such control or treatment will be conducted in accordance with a State memorandum of understanding approved under section 405(m) of this Act" after "Control Act" the second place it appears.

SEC. 5. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 405(f) (30 U.S.C. 1235(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking the "and" after the semicolon in paragraph (6);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

"(8) a list of projects proposed under subsection (n)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5

legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank leadership for allowing H.R. 2937 to come to the floor. This legislation, introduced by my friend from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), will help address the challenge of abandoned coal mines present in many affected communities across the Nation.

The Community Reclamation Partnerships Act enables States to partner with Good Samaritan entities to reclaim abandoned mine sites and facilitate acid mine drainage cleanup. H.R. 2937 creates more opportunities to address this challenge.

Mr. Speaker, representing the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District, just to note, my congressional district has more abandoned mine sites than any congressional district in the country, so I am very grateful for the leadership that Mr. LAHOOD has shown in bringing H.R. 2937 forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2937, introduced by Representative LAHOOD, is a step forward for communities looking to address abandoned coal mines in their backyards by partnering with Good Samaritans seeking to help.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, my home State, estimates that it will need over \$400 million to clean up all of its remaining abandoned coal mines and, while this bill is no substitute for a long-term reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Land fund, every little bit helps.

Each project funded by a Good Samaritan through this bill will help one more community make their economy stronger and their environment healthier.

A hearing on a discussion draft of this bill brought a number of problematic issues to light, but I greatly appreciate the willingness of the bill's sponsor and the majority staff of the Natural Resources Committee to reach across the aisle and work with us on a bipartisan agreement that was able to achieve unanimous consent in the Natural Resources Committee.

I thank the sponsor for his diligent and collaborative work on this bill, and I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2937.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman THOMPSON and the

ranking member for helping to bring this bill, in a bipartisan way, to the floor. I appreciate your support on H.R. 2937.

This legislation will help address the complex legal and funding-related challenges for abandoned mine lands across the Nation.

The Community Reclamation Partnerships Act amends the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to enable States to partner with nongovernmental entities to reclaim abandoned mine sites and facilitate acid mine drainage cleanup across the country.

Nongovernmental entities, like Trout Unlimited, have recognized the need for reclamation in coal communities and are willing to contribute their resources and expertise to address the problem. Unfortunately, liability and regulatory concerns have discouraged them from participating and partnering with the States on reclamation projects. This legislation enables nongovernmental entities' participation in State reclamation programs by minimizing undeserved liability and codifying proven practices established by the State reclamation agencies.

This legislation also addresses a frequent problem that States experience in addressing water pollution at abandoned mine land sites. States must choose between risking noncompliance under the Clean Water Act or foregoing acid mine drainage abatement projects altogether. Some States, like Pennsylvania, have successfully addressed this problem by establishing their own guidelines for the treatment of water pollution at abandoned mine land sites. These State-specific strategies have resulted in successful water treatment projects and a significant reduction in acid mine drainage in several States. We want to replicate that across the country with this legislation.

Currently, State reclamation activities have been funded solely by fees levied on the coal industry over the past four decades. These fees have resulted in reclamation of approximately \$4 billion of abandoned mine land liabilities. However, according to the Department of the Interior, the estimated remediation costs exceeds \$10 billion across the country.

The outstanding abandoned mine land liabilities in Illinois, my home State, is \$156 million; and in my district, the 18th Congressional District, it is \$17 million. The cost of reclaiming these sites will continue to strain State resources in the coming decades, and the conditions of these sites will only worsen over time.

In short, this bill empowers State and local community leaders who want to assist in abandoned mine cleanup efforts so that future development can occur in these areas. No group should be punished for wanting to help out their local community in a responsible way.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2937 brings more resources to bear on this considerable

challenge, and I urge adoption of this bipartisan measure.

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would just ask my colleagues to support this piece of legislation. I am very appreciative to the author of this bill for his leadership. Having a congressional district that has significant presence of abandoned mine lands, I know that the authorities and the protections he is seeking here will be good for all, for the communities, for the environment, and for the economy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2937.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS ACT

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 289) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to issue permits for recreation services on lands managed by Federal agencies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 289

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; DEFINITIONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Guides and Outfitters Act" or the "GO Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents; definitions.
- Sec. 2. Special recreation permit and fee.
- Sec. 3. Permit across multiple jurisdictions.
- Sec. 4. Guidelines and permit fee calculation.
- Sec. 5. Use of permit fees for permit administration.
- Sec. 6. Adjustment to permit use reviews.
- Sec. 7. Authorization of temporary permits for new uses for the Forest Service and BLM.
- Sec. 8. Indemnification requirements.
- Sec. 9. Streamlining of permitting process.
- Sec. 10. Cost recovery reform.
- Sec. 11. Extension of Forest Service recreation priority use permits.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to a Federal land management agency (other than the Forest Service); and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to the Forest Service.

(2) SECRETARIES.—The term "Secretaries" means the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture acting jointly.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT AND FEE.

Subsection (h) of section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) is amended to read as follows:

“(h) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT AND FEE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

“(A) issue a special recreation permit for Federal recreational lands and waters; and

“(B) charge a special recreation permit fee in connection with the issuance of the permit.

“(2) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS.—The Secretary may issue special recreation permits in the following circumstances:

“(A) For specialized individual and group use of Federal facilities and Federal recreational lands and waters, such as, but not limited to, use of special areas or areas where use is allocated, motorized recreational vehicle use, and group activities or events.

“(B) To recreation service providers who conduct outfitting, guiding, and other recreation services on Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

“(C) To recreation service providers who conduct recreation or competitive events, which may involve incidental sales on Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

“(3) REDUCTION IN FEDERAL COSTS AND DULPLICATION OF ANALYSIS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The issuance of a new special recreation permit for activities under paragraph (2) shall be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), if the proposed use is the same as or similar to a previously authorized use and the Secretary determines that such issuance does not have significant environmental effects based upon application of the extraordinary circumstances procedures established by the Secretary under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

“(B) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘similar’ means—

“(i) substantially similar in type, nature, and scope; and

“(ii) will not result in significant new impacts.

“(4) RELATION TO FEES FOR USE OF HIGHWAYS OR ROADS.—An entity that pays a special recreation permit fee shall not be subject to a road cost-sharing fee or a fee for the use of highways or roads that are open to private, noncommercial use within the boundaries of any Federal recreational lands or waters, as authorized under section 6 of Public Law 88-657 (16 U.S.C. 537).”

SEC. 3. PERMIT ACROSS MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an activity requiring permits pursuant to subsection (h) of section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) for use of lands managed by both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management—

(1) the Secretaries may issue a joint permit based upon a single application to both agencies when issuance of a joint permit based upon a single application will lower processing and other administration costs for the permittee, provided that the permit applicant shall have the option to apply for separate permits rather than a joint permit; and

(2) the permit application required under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) the application required by the lead agency; and

(B) submitted to the lead agency.

(b) REQUIREMENTS OF THE LEAD AGENCY.—The lead agency for a permit under subsection (a) shall—

(1) coordinate with the associated agencies, consistent with the authority of the Secretaries under section 330 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (43 U.S.C. 1703), to develop and issue the single, joint permit that covers the entirety of the trip;

(2) in processing the joint permit application, incorporate the findings, interests, and needs of the associated agencies, provided that such coordination shall not be subject to cost recovery; and

(3) complete the permitting process within a reasonable time after receiving the permit application.

(c) EFFECT ON REGULATIONS.—Nothing in this section shall alter, expand, or limit the applicability of any Federal law (including regulations) to lands administered by the relevant Federal agencies.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ASSOCIATED AGENCY.—The term “associated agency” means an agency that manages the land on which the trip of the special recreation permit applicant will enter after leaving the land managed by the lead agency.

(2) LEAD AGENCY.—The term “lead agency” means the agency that manages the land on which the trip of the special recreation permit applicant will begin.

SEC. 4. GUIDELINES AND PERMIT FEE CALCULATION.

(a) GUIDELINES AND EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN REVENUES.—The Secretary shall—

(1) publish guidelines in the Federal Register for establishing recreation permit fees; and

(2) provide appropriate deductions from gross revenues used as the basis for the fees established under paragraph (1) for—

(A) revenue from goods, services, and activities provided by a recreation service provider outside Federal recreational lands and waters, such as costs for transportation, lodging, and other services before or after a trip; and

(B) fees to be paid by permit holder under applicable law to provide services on other Federal lands, if separate permits are issued to that permit holder for a single event or trip.

(b) FEE CONDITIONS.—The fee charged by the Secretary for a permit issued under section 803(h) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802(h)) shall not exceed 3 percent of the recreational service provider's annual gross revenue for activities authorized by the permit on Federal lands, plus applicable revenue additions, minus applicable revenue exclusions or a similar flat per person fee.

(c) DISCLOSURE OF FEES.—A holder of a special recreation permit may inform its customers of the various fees charged by the Secretary under section 803(h) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802(h)).

SEC. 5. USE OF PERMIT FEES FOR PERMIT ADMINISTRATION.

(a) DEPOSITS.—Subject to subsection (b), revenues from special recreation permits issued to recreation service providers under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 803(h)(2) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802(h)(2)) shall be held in special accounts established for each specific unit or area for which such revenues are collected, and shall remain available for expenditure, without further appropriation, until expended.

(b) USE OF PERMIT FEES.—Revenues from special recreation permits issued to recre-

ation service providers under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 803(h)(2) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802(h)(2)) shall be used only—

(1) to partially offset the Secretary's direct cost of administering the permits;

(2) to improve and streamline the permitting process; and

(3) for related recreation infrastructure and other purposes specifically to support recreation activities at the specific site for which use is authorized under the permit, after obtaining input from any related permittees; provided, however, that the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 1 et seq.) shall not apply to any advisory committee or other group established to carry out this paragraph.

(c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FEES.—The Secretary may not use any permit fees for biological monitoring on Federal recreational lands and waters under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) for listed or candidate species.

SEC. 6. ADJUSTMENT TO PERMIT USE REVIEWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that the Secretary utilizes permit use reviews, in reviewing and adjusting allocations of use for permits for special uses of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Forest Service, and in renewing such permits, the Secretary of Agriculture shall allocate to a permit holder a level of use that is no less than the highest amount of actual annual use over the reviewed period plus 25 percent, capped at the amount of use allocated when the permit was issued unless additional capacity is available. The Secretary may assign any use remaining after adjusting allocations on a temporary basis to qualified permit holders.

(b) WAIVER.—Use reviews under subsection (a) may be waived for periods in which circumstances that prevented use of assigned capacity, such as weather, fire, natural disasters, wildlife displacement, business interruptions, insufficient availability of hunting and fishing licenses, or when allocations on permits include significant shoulder seasons. The authorizing office may approve non-use without reducing the number of service days assigned to the permit in such circumstances at the request of the permit holder. Approved non-use may be temporarily assigned to other qualified permit holders when conditions warrant.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF TEMPORARY PERMITS FOR NEW USES FOR THE FOREST SERVICE AND BLM.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall establish and implement a program to authorize temporary permits for new recreational uses of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, respectively, and to provide for the conversions of such temporary permits to long-term permits after 2 years of satisfactory operation. The issuance and conversion of such permits shall be subject to subsection (h)(3) of section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802).

SEC. 8. INDEMNIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) INDEMNIFICATION.—A permit holder that is prohibited by the State from providing indemnification to the Federal Government shall be considered to be in compliance with indemnification requirements of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture if the permit holder carries the required minimum amount of liability insurance coverage or is self-insured for the same minimum amount.

(b) EXCULPATORY AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall not implement, administer or

enforce any regulation or policy prohibiting the use of exculpatory agreements between recreation service providers and their customers for services provided under a special recreation permit.

SEC. 9. STREAMLINING OF PERMITTING PROCESS.

(a) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall revise part 251, subpart B, of title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, and the Secretary of the Interior shall revise subpart 2932, of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, to streamline the processes for the issuance and renewal of outfitter and guide special use permits. Such amended regulations shall—

(1) shorten application processing times and minimize application and administration costs; and

(2) provide for the use of programmatic environmental assessments and categorical exclusions for environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for the issuance or renewal of outfitter and guide and similar recreation special use permits when the Secretary determines that such compliance is required, to the maximum extent allowable under applicable law, including, but not limited to, use of a categorical exclusion as provided under section 803(h)(3) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802(h)(3)).

(b) ONLINE APPLICATIONS.—To the maximum extent practicable, where feasible and efficient, the Secretary shall make special recreation permit applications available to be filled out and submitted online.

SEC. 10. COST RECOVERY REFORM.

(a) REGULATORY PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall revise section 251.58 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, and the Secretary of the Interior shall revise section 2932.31(e) and (f) of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, to reduce costs and minimize the burden of cost recovery on small businesses and adverse impacts of cost recovery on jobs in the outfitting and guiding industry and on rural economies provided, however, that nothing in the revised regulations shall further limit the Secretary's authority to issue or renew recreation special use permits.

(b) DE MINIMIS EXEMPTION.—

(1) COST RECOVERY LIMITATION.—Any regulations issued by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to establish fees to recover processing costs for recreation special use applications and monitoring costs for recreation special use authorizations shall include an exemption providing that at least the first 50 hours of work necessary in any one year to process and/or monitor such an application shall not be subject to cost recovery. The application of a 50-hour credit per permit shall also apply to any monitoring fees on a per annum basis during the term of each permit.

(2) APPLICATION OF EXEMPTION.—An exemption under paragraph (1) shall apply to the processing of each recreation special use permit application and monitoring of each recreation special use authorization for which cost recovery is required, including any application or authorization requiring more than 50 hours (or such other greater number of hours specified for exemption) to process or monitor. In the event that the amount of work required to process such an application or monitor such an authorization exceeds the specified exemption, the amount of work for which cost recovery is required shall be reduced by the amount of the exemption.

(3) MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS.—In situations involving multiple recreation special use ap-

plications for similar services in the same unit or area that require more than 50 hours (or such other greater number of hours specified for exemption) in the aggregate to process, the Secretary shall, regardless of whether the applications are solicited or unsolicited and whether there is competitive interest—

(A) determine the share of the aggregate amount to be allocated to each application, on an equal or prorated basis, as appropriate; and

(B) for each application, apply a separate exemption of up to 50 hours (or such other greater number of hours specified for exemption) to the share allocated to such application.

(4) COST REDUCTION.—The agency processing a recreation special use application shall utilize existing studies and analysis to the greatest extent practicable in order to reduce the amount of work and cost necessary to process the application.

(5) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may not recover as processing costs for recreation special use applications and monitoring costs for recreation special use authorizations any costs for consultations conducted under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) or for biological monitoring on Federal recreational lands and waters under such Act for listed, proposed, or candidate species.

(6) WAIVER OF COST RECOVERY.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may waive the recovery of costs for processing recreation special use permit applications and renewals, on a categorical or case-by-case basis as appropriate, if the Secretary determines that—

(A) such costs would impose a significant economic burden on any small business or category of small businesses;

(B) such cost recovery could threaten the ability of an applicant or permittee to provide, in a particular area, a particular outdoor recreational activity that is consistent with the public interest and with applicable resource management plans; or

(C) prevailing economic conditions are unfavorable, such as during economic recessions, or when drought, fire, or other natural disasters have depressed economic activity in the area of operation.

SEC. 11. EXTENSION OF FOREST SERVICE RECREATION PRIORITY USE PERMITS.

Where the holder of a special use permit for outfitting and guiding that authorizes priority use has submitted a request for renewal of such permit in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, the Secretary of Agriculture shall have the authority to grant the holder one or more extensions of the existing permit for additional items not to exceed 5 years in the aggregate, as necessary to allow the Secretary to complete the renewal process and to avoid the interruption of services under such permit. Before granting an extension under this section, the Secretary shall take all reasonable and appropriate steps to complete the renewal process before the expiration of the special use permit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include

extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am indeed proud to present my bill today, H.R. 289, the Guides and Outfitters Act of 2017, also known as the GO Act. I would like to thank the Natural Resources Committee for its overwhelming support of this bill, which happened on June 27 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I expect that nearly every Member of this body has fond memories of being on our public lands, whether it be fishing as a kid or with your kids, hunting with friends, hiking, on a horse, or camping with the family. Outdoor activities generate not just memorable moments and a love and respect for the great outdoors but also important, considerable economic activity, which is especially important for our rural areas of northern California, where my district is, and all across our Nation.

The Outdoor Recreation Association estimates that recreational activity in the United States contributes nearly \$900 billion to our GDP annually, supporting about 7.6 million jobs.

Unfortunately, public access to public lands is too often hindered by costly and complex permit requirements that vary from agency to agency, sometimes even crossing from agency to agency what the requirements are to seek a permit.

The GO Act enhances and protects access to our public lands by streamlining Federal agencies' special recreation permit process, moving the permit process online, and providing joint permits for activities across a combination of National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service land.

In rural America, where rural economies often depend on annual outdoor events—some events, this might be their only event of the year, a big part of their local economy. We have that in northern California in some areas. The GO Act provides greater assurance that such activities on public lands will continue into the future.

This bill also authorizes agencies to use categorical exclusions to grant annual events a streamlined review, ensuring such events don't need expensive and duplicative studies year after year. Really, there is no need to reinvent the wheel each year for an existing permitted activity.

Getting more American families and groups and clubs outdoors can only be accomplished by building a permit process that doesn't deter outdoor enthusiasts from enjoying public lands but, indeed, makes them feel welcome and encouraged to enjoy these lands that belong to all of us.

The idea behind this bipartisan bill is simple: getting more Americans outside, on their lands, for less cost, less

money, less headache of permits, less red tape; that is really what this is about. There is no need for some of the process that people have to go through to get a permit when it is especially an already-known activity with very minimal or no impact.

□ 1745

Mr. Speaker, let's make recreating in our public lands an open and simple experience. Once again, I urge swift passage of this bill, H.R. 289, the Guides and Outfitters Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2017.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On June 27, 2017, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered reported as amended H.R. 289, the Guides and Outfitters Act, by voice vote. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on Agriculture.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Agriculture to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Agriculture represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP.

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2017.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to review H.R. 289, the Guides and Outfitters Act. As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, while the Agriculture Committee received an additional referral.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I agree to discharge H.R. 289 from further consideration by the Committee on Agriculture. I do so with the understanding that by discharging the bill, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is an earnest effort to improve the availability of recreation permits on Federal lands. Public lands support the thriving outdoor recreation economy, and many small businesses partner with the Federal Government to provide a range of visitor services.

The stated purpose of the bill is to reduce permitting time and administrative hurdles faced by permit applications. We are open to the idea of approving the permit process to ensure timely and transparent access to public lands for recreation activities and other special events. However, we are concerned that some of the methods used by the bill could lead to more problems than they solve.

For example, section 2 creates a categorical exclusion for permits related to activities that have been previously considered through the National Environmental Policy Act process. Categorical exclusions are reserved for types of activities that are determined to have limited environmental impacts. They are most commonly developed through a rulemaking process which provides for public comment and provides the agency with the flexibility to determine when they are appropriate.

The Forest Service already stresses the use of existing categorical exclusions for special recreation permits and does what it can with available resources to speed up permit processing times. It is unclear why this section is necessary or appropriate.

If current categorical exclusions are insufficient, Congress should encourage a rulemaking process to address the inadequacies. While we have some concerns, this bill is a good first step, and we would hope our concerns can be addressed in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the input from my colleague from Virginia, and we certainly want to have this be a process that works well. By delineating some of the categorical exclusions, we just seek to make it more usable, more user-friendly in that sense. So I thank you for the support on that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), my neighbor.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 289, the Guides and Outfitters—or GO—Act, offered by my Natural Resources Committee colleague and my California neighbor, Congressman DOUG LAMALFA.

For many years, we have seen increasingly severe restrictions on the public's use of the public's land. One of the most galling aspects of this exclusionary policy is the use of exorbitant fees to prevent many group events and small business services that have often been the economic mainstay of small

mountain communities like those in my district in the Sierra Nevada.

This abusive practice was made possible by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement—or FLREA—Act in 2004. It unleashed a flood of complex rules, regulations, and court decisions that have gradually increased the cost of permit administration for the Forest Service and for the Bureau of Land Management, which these agencies, in turn, have used as an excuse to raise fees on the public to cost-prohibitive levels.

For example, the California Endurance Riders Association have been using the El Dorado National Forest for many years. In 2009, when they sought a simple 5-year, 10-event permit to continue doing exactly what they had been doing without incident for decades, the Forest Service demanded \$11,000 in fees.

Well, they paid those fees. But the El Dorado National Forest management, nonetheless, pulled the approved permit and halted the process on utterly specious grounds. It then demanded an additional \$17,000 fee, causing the Endurance Riders Association to cancel what had been a long-term civic tradition that had been a boon to the local economy.

In 2010, this outrage was repeated after the group spent \$5,800 for the Fool's Gold endurance run that had been an ongoing event for more than 40 years.

Hardest hit are guides and outfitters, the folks who make it possible for visitors to fully enjoy our national lands. They are the small businesses that provide specialized knowledge, skills, and equipment that new visitors just don't possess. Both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have used FLREA to require these small businesses to pay for permit processing and environmental analyses that require more than 50 hours.

These fees, along with complex planning requirements, have virtually shut down so many legitimate and traditional public events and uses. Efforts to encourage the agencies to modify and streamline the process have failed, even when those efforts were supported by agency policy.

The GO Act is a long-overdue relief of these practices. It amends FLREA to streamline the recreation permitting process and allow for increased public access to recreational opportunities on the Federal lands. The GO Act was crafted in consultation with a wide variety of recreation groups throughout the country, and it aims to reduce the cost and complexity of these permits.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and personally thank Congressman LAMALFA for listening to his constituents, the people of the Sierra Nevada, and to the thousands of recreation service providers across the country who have been begging Congress to make these changes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure.

Mr. McEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers to speak to this issue, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the input by my colleague, Mr. McCLINTOCK, as well, who has lived this in some of those same Sierra counties we are talking about, and other areas in the West. So we, again, are very encouraged by the bipartisan support, the strong support coming out of committee, and that H.R. 289, the Guides and Outfitters Act, is something that will open the gateway to more enjoyment of our public lands without the constraints, such as exorbitant, extraneous fees and permits that really don't yield any additional care for the environment or care for the area with people that are already good stewards.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 289, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 36, PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

Ms. CHENEY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-338) on the resolution (H. Res. 548) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 36) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1547, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 965, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

UDALL PARK LAND EXCHANGE COMPLETION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1547) to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Tucson, Arizona, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest to the City, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 0, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 544]

YEAS—401

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barragán
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot

Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Demings
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Ellison
Emmer
Engel
Eshoo
Español
Estes (KS)
Esty (CT)

Evans
Farenthold
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gottheimer
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Hanabusa
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman

Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (MN)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry

McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascarell
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas J.
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce (CA)
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Rutherford
Sánchez

Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradner
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Speier
Olson
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Suozy
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Tennet
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—32

Bridenstine
Buchanan
Butterfield
Clarke (NY)
Collins (GA)
Connolly
Crist
Crowley
DeFazio
DesJarlais
Gutiérrez

Jenkins (KS)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Katko
Kihuen
Langevin
Long
Meng
Pearce
Richmond
Rohrabacher

Rosen
Ryan (OH)
Simpson
Sires
Soto
Titus
Tsongas
Vargas
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

□ 1851

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on rollcall No. 544.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE ATTACK IN LAS VEGAS

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the attack in Las Vegas.

SAINT-GAUDENS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK REDESIGNATION ACT

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 965) to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park", and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 0, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 545]

YEAS—401

Abraham	Brownley (CA)	Courtney
Adams	Buck	Cramer
Aderholt	Bucshon	Crawford
Aguilar	Budd	Cuellar
Allen	Burgess	Culberson
Amash	Bustos	Cummings
Amodei	Byrne	Curbelo (FL)
Arrington	Calvert	Davidson
Babin	Capuano	Davis (CA)
Bacon	Carbajal	Davis, Danny
Banks (IN)	Cárdenas	Davis, Rodney
Barletta	Carson (IN)	DeGette
Barr	Carter (GA)	Delaney
Barragán	Carter (TX)	DeLauro
Barton	Cartwright	DelBene
Bass	Castor (FL)	Demings
Beatty	Castro (TX)	Denham
Bera	Chabot	Dent
Bergman	Cheney	DeSantis
Beyer	Chu, Judy	DeSaulnier
Biggs	Cicilline	Deutch
Billirakis	Clark (MA)	Diaz-Balart
Bishop (GA)	Clay	Dingell
Bishop (MI)	Cleaver	Doggett
Bishop (UT)	Clyburn	Donovan
Black	Coffman	Doyle, Michael
Blackburn	Cohen	F.
Blum	Cole	Duffy
Blunt Rochester	Collins (GA)	Duncan (SC)
Bonamici	Collins (NY)	Duncan (TN)
Bost	Comer	Dunn
Boyle, Brendan	Comstock	Ellison
F.	Conaway	Emmer
Brady (PA)	Conyers	Engel
Brady (TX)	Cook	Eshoo
Brat	Cooper	Españillat
Brooks (AL)	Correa	Estes (KS)
Brooks (IN)	Costa	Esty (CT)
Brown (MD)	Costello (PA)	Evans

Farenthold	Lawrence	Rogers (AL)
Faso	Lawson (FL)	Rogers (KY)
Ferguson	Lee	Rokita
Fitzpatrick	Levin	Rooney, Francis
Fleischmann	Lewis (GA)	Rooney, Thomas
Flores	Lewis (MN)	J.
Fortenberry	Lieu, Ted	Ros-Lehtinen
Foster	Lipinski	Roskam
Fox	LoBiondo	Ross
Frankel (FL)	Loebbeck	Rothfus
Franks (AZ)	Lofgren	Rouzer
Frelinghuysen	Loudermilk	Roybal-Allard
Gabbard	Love	Royce (CA)
Gaetz	Lowenthal	Ruiz
Gallagher	Lowe	Rush
Gallego	Lucas	Russell
Garamendi	Luetkemeyer	Rutherford
Garrett	Lujan Grisham,	Sánchez
Gianforte	M.	Sanford
Gibbs	Luján, Ben Ray	Sarbanes
Gohmert	Lynch	Scalise
Gomez	MacArthur	Schakowsky
Gonzalez (TX)	Maloney,	Schiff
Goodlatte	Carolyn B.	Schneider
Gosar	Maloney, Sean	Schrader
Gottheimer	Marchant	Schweikert
Gowdy	Marino	Scott (VA)
Granger	Marshall	Scott, Austin
Graves (GA)	Massie	Scott, David
Graves (LA)	Mast	Sensenbrenner
Graves (MO)	Matsui	Serrano
Green, Al	McCarthy	Sessions
Green, Gene	McCaul	Sewell (AL)
Griffith	McClintock	Shea-Porter
Grijalva	McCollum	Sherman
Grothman	McEachin	Shimkus
Guthrie	McGovern	Shuster
Hanabusa	McHenry	Sinema
Handel	McKinley	Slaughter
Harper	McMorris	Smith (MO)
Harris	Rodgers	Smith (NE)
Hartzler	McNerney	Smith (NJ)
Hastings	McSally	Smith (TX)
Heck	Meehan	Smith (WA)
Hensarling	Meeks	Smucker
Herrera Beutler	Messer	Speier
Hice, Jody B.	Mitchell	Stefanik
Higgins (LA)	Moelenaar	Stewart
Higgins (NY)	Mooney (WV)	Stivers
Hill	Moore	Suozzi
Himes	Moulton	Swalwell (CA)
Holding	Mullin	Takano
Hollingsworth	Murphy (FL)	Taylor
Hoyer	Murphy (PA)	Tenney
Hudson	Nadler	Thompson (CA)
Huffman	Napolitano	Thompson (MS)
Huizenga	Neal	Thompson (PA)
Hultgren	Newhouse	Thornberry
Hunter	Noem	Tiberi
Hurd	Nolan	Tipton
Issa	Norcross	Tonko
Jackson Lee	Norman	Torres
Jayapal	Nunes	Trott
Jeffries	O'Halleran	Turner
Jenkins (WV)	O'Rourke	Upton
Johnson (GA)	Olson	Valadao
Johnson (LA)	Palazzo	Vargas
Johnson (OH)	Pallone	Veasey
Johnson, Sam	Palmer	Vela
Jones	Panetta	Velázquez
Jordan	Pascrell	Visclosky
Joyce (OH)	Paulsen	Wagner
Keating	Payne	Walberg
Kelly (IL)	Pelosi	Walden
Kelly (MS)	Perlmutter	Walker
Kelly (PA)	Perry	Walorski
Kennedy	Peters	Walters, Mimi
Khanna	Peterson	Walz
Kildee	Pingree	Wasserman
Kilmer	Pittenger	Schultz
Kind	Pocan	Waters, Maxine
King (IA)	Poe (TX)	Watson Coleman
King (NY)	Poliquin	Weber (TX)
Kinziger	Polis	Webster (FL)
Knight	Posey	Welch
Krishnamoorthi	Price (NC)	Wenstrup
Kuster (NH)	Quigley	Westerman
Kustoff (TN)	Raskin	Williams
Labrador	Ratcliffe	Wilson (SC)
LaHood	Reed	Wittman
LaMalfa	Reichert	Womack
Lamborn	Renacci	Woodall
Lance	Rice (NY)	Yoder
Langevin	Rice (SC)	Yoho
Larsen (WA)	Richmond	Young (AK)
Larson (CT)	Roby	Young (IA)
Latta	Roe (TN)	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—32

Blumenauer	Gutiérrez	Rosen
Bridenstine	Jenkins (KS)	Ruppersberger
Buchanan	Johnson, E. B.	Ryan (OH)
Butterfield	Kaptur	Simpson
Clarke (NY)	Katko	Sires
Connolly	Kihuen	Soto
Crist	Long	Titus
Crowley	Meadows	Tsongas
DeFazio	Meng	Wilson (FL)
DesJarlais	Pearce	Yarmuth
Fudge	Rohrabacher	

□ 1900

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, on October 2nd, on rollcall votes 544 and 545, I was not present because I was tending to my community in Las Vegas, in the aftermath of the deadliest mass shooting in United States history. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 544 and "yea" on rollcall vote 545.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNALAM

(Mr. FASO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, today I rise to recognize Unalam, a family-run lumber manufacturing business in Otsego County, New York, which will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year on October 4.

Unalam is owned by the Van Cott family, which has established a multigenerational reputation of supporting our upstate farmers and small businesses with quality lumber products and innovations.

Unalam's journey began in 1892, when J.W. Van Cott began selling lumber in Unadilla, New York. Since then, each generation has left its mark on the family's business. Unalam has become a renowned firm for its expert production of glulam, or laminated timber barn rafters.

Today, Unalam is headed by J.W. Van Cott's great-great-grandson, Craig Van Cott, and his children, Zoe Vandermeulen and Leif Van Cott.

I thank and congratulate the Van Cott family as well as the past and present employees of Unalam as they celebrate this incredible milestone.

ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last night we witnessed another unspeakable act of gun violence that took too many innocent lives.

Today my heart breaks once again for those victims of the Las Vegas shooting and for the families whose

lives have been irrevocably changed by this terrible tragedy. Each of them is in my prayers today.

Mr. Speaker, prayers alone are not enough. We cannot, in good conscience, sit idly by as innocent people continue to die.

Mr. Speaker, there are reasonable steps that we can take to make our communities safer, things like limiting high-capacity magazines and banning assault weapons—weapons, by the way, that are weapons of war and have no business being on the streets in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, we have a solemn responsibility as Members of Congress to ensure that our communities are safe. Let us honor the victims of the Las Vegas shooting by doing something to prevent such tragedies from happening in the future.

MASSACRE IN LAS VEGAS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the band played the latest country western song, gunfire erupted from the 32nd floor window across the street.

Twenty minutes later, when the shots stopped and the smoke cleared, 59 people were murdered and over 520 were wounded.

The SWAT team quickly found the hiding place of the evil villain, and as they approached, the outlaw shot himself. Thus, he avoided a date with the hangman. Justice occurred.

The casualties would have been much worse but for quick action by members of the crowd. People, including former military and off-duty police officers, helped hide and cover others while endangering their own lives.

The first responders, police, doctors, emergency medical technicians quickly tended to the wounded. These unnamed quick responders, both civilian and law enforcement, and medical, without regard to their own life, saved others.

The band had stopped playing music, but the cries of the wounded and the tears of the mourning continue, Mr. Speaker. We must have prayers for Las Vegas, and God bless them one and all.

And that is just the way it is.

OBJECTING TO POLICY OF COLLECTING SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT INFORMATION OF NATURALIZED CITIZENS

(Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers also go to the victims of the Las Vegas shooting.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to address another subject that, unfortunately, came up last week.

Mr. Speaker, as one of ten naturalized United States citizens in Congress, I rise today to express strong objections to the Department of Homeland

Security's new policy to collect the social media account information of naturalized citizens.

In accordance with this new rule, the DHS will include social media alongside basic information, such as biometrics, Social Security numbers, and contact information in naturalization records. This is unprecedented.

There is no evidence that tracking social media accounts of naturalized citizens will in any way make the United States more secure.

Rather than target naturalized citizens, the President should work with Congress to reform our immigration system and ensure that all Americans, natural born or naturalized, are able to work, study, and pursue the American Dream.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SHAW CARTER

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. Shaw Carter, who passed away on August 9, 2017, at the age of 24.

Shaw was a rare individual who touched the hearts of many people in his life. He was a recent graduate of Young Harris College in north Georgia, and was a graduate assistant at the University of Georgia, where he was working on his master's degree in public administration.

Born with a heart defect, he underwent three open heart surgeries before his third birthday and had a heart transplant before his 21st birthday.

Through the obstacles with his illnesses, he preserved and selflessly volunteered his time to uplift other kids who had other severe medical issues. For example, he volunteered over 200 hours for Mended Hearts at Northeast Georgia Medical Center.

When he was awarded the Young Harris Spirit Award, he was described as the "indefatigable Shaw Carter." There is no better way to describe him. He will truly be missed.

WE MUST CONFRONT DOMESTIC TERRORISM

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, with the humblest of hearts, I cannot imagine the fear and the horror of those who heard those violent sounds late last night in Las Vegas, nor the horror of family members who had to wonder where their loved ones were or are now calling numbers to discern what happened.

One of my closest relatives was in Las Vegas, and I can only imagine what they went through, as I had the great fear myself, not knowing where and what.

I think the American people expect us to mourn and to honor them and to

have a moment of silence, but I believe that the American people demand, and should, and those families who are now mourning, that we should be sensible.

Mr. Speaker, we should not ever put on the floor of the House the deregulation of silencers. Can you imagine how many more would have died if the perpetrator who had ten guns had a silencer?

We have to confront domestic terrorism. We can't run away from it. We have to confront automatic weapons no matter what, where, and how.

My prayers are with the families, but I think they demand, Mr. Speaker, action from this Congress.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and it is a time when we celebrate the numerous contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities.

Many Americans with disabilities struggle to find employment opportunities despite the wealth of skills they have to offer. In 2016, only 27.7 percent of working-age Americans with disabilities were employed.

More employers should recognize the fresh perspectives and skills that these men and women can add to an organization.

Workers with developmental disabilities tend to be reliable, dedicated, and loyal employees with a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

Right here on Capitol Hill, my office participates in the Congressional Internship Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. This program is designed to give students with varying intellectual disabilities an opportunity to gain congressional work experience, and it has been rewarding for everyone involved.

Mr. Speaker, hiring an individual who has a disability can have a profound impact on their life. They experience the independence, economic self-sufficiency, pride, and community that come with a job.

These individuals promote workforce diversity and can truly enhance the workplace for the better.

WITH GUN RIGHTS COMES RESPONSIBILITIES

(Ms. JAYAPAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to the victims and the families impacted by the horrific shooting in Las Vegas. Gun violence is a public health crisis that has claimed thousands of innocent lives, and we

must do everything we can to address it.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of being outraged, of sending thoughts and prayers, of seeing men, women, and children die because the gun lobby puts profit over people. That is not what our Founders intended by the right to bear arms.

With rights come responsibilities: the responsibility to stop gun sales loopholes, to enact protections that make sure our kids and those with severe mental illnesses don't have access to guns, to address funding for mental health, and to oppose any efforts to make it easier to purchase silencers.

Mr. Speaker, 87 percent of gunowners and 74 percent of NRA members support those commonsense solutions, like criminal background checks.

I have a plea for gunowners across this country: urge the NRA to represent your views; show them that you mean business by speaking out or even terminating your NRA membership; show them that you care about your fellow Americans. Act now. Enough is enough.

□ 1915

CANCER LINK CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Cancer Link, an amazing volunteer organization dedicated to finding a cure for breast cancer and assisting those in south Florida whose lives have been impacted by this disease.

Cancer Link was founded in 1987 by a small group of 10 Miami women who wanted to spread awareness about breast cancer after suffering the devastating loss of a friend. In the years since, this wonderful organization has grown into an impactful volunteer group that has supported essential breast cancer research at the Sylvester Cancer Center in Miami, Florida.

The volunteers at Cancer Link have also helped provide essential community healthcare programs that ensure that healthcare for breast cancer treatment is accessible to every woman in our community.

Congratulations again to all who have been a part of Cancer Link throughout the years, and thank you for 30 years of service to our community.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO MAKE IT HARDER FOR DANGEROUS PEOPLE TO ACQUIRE ASSAULT WEAPONS

(Ms. SÁNCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sorrow and anger.

Last night, more than 58 people were tragically murdered and over 500 wounded in a senseless act of violence in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The murderer was found to have 20 guns, including at least one automatic rifle. No person should be allowed to possess a weapon that makes indiscriminately killing human beings easier.

It just baffles me that some of my colleagues don't agree with that basic premise. Not only do they not agree with sensible gun control measures like background checks and no fly, no buy, they won't even allow public research dollars to be used to research gun control and gun violence.

Until Congress acts to make it harder for dangerous people to acquire these types of weapons, tragedies like this will continue to happen.

How many more people have to die?

How much more blood must be shed before Congress decides to act?

Moments of silence and sympathy and prayers from Members of this body are not enough anymore. The time has come to act. We must act now.

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month and all who have been affected by this terrible disease. Each October we take time to raise awareness about the threat breast cancer poses to women and men throughout the country and the world.

Studies show that one in eight women across the Nation will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime and that more than 249,000 people in the United States are diagnosed each year. Roughly 1 percent of those are men.

This month, it is not only imperative that we reflect upon all who are affected by breast cancer, but that we also take action to fight against it.

Today I would like to recognize a courageous constituent, friend, and cancer survivor, Karen Newton. Earlier this year, I played in the Congressional Women's Softball Game in honor of Karen's triumph over breast cancer. Karen is a vibrant testament to the fact that strides we make in medicine are helping cancer patients and their loved ones, though I don't think she is a very good driver.

Whether it is wearing pink to raise awareness or offering support to a brave person who is fighting this disease, in October, let's all join together to fight to end breast cancer.

CONGRESS MUST PROVIDE RELIEF TO PUERTO RICO

(Ms. BARRAGÁN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because American citizens are suffering in Puerto Rico. Twelve days after Hurricane Maria made landfall, more than half of the island's residents are still without running water.

Low-income communities have been hit especially hard. They are trying to survive through unsafe and unsanitary conditions, where the basics of life can be impossible to find.

After an earthquake struck Haiti in 2010, I was proud to see that America deployed every available resource the very next day at the crack of dawn to help out. But I wonder why the same response wasn't deployed to help Americans in Puerto Rico.

I call on the administration and Congress to ensure that Puerto Rico receives the emergency aid it needs now so we don't lose more American lives to the storm.

Congress must also provide real relief and aid to our brothers and sisters there. The situation in Puerto Rico is dire, and our fellow Americans are counting on us to act now.

SUPPORTING THE PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I, along with all of our American citizens, recoil today at the senseless and evil mayhem and killing that went on in Las Vegas. We pray for the families of those whose lives were lost, as well as those who are injured and suffering right now.

I, along with, I am sure, many Americans, recoil at senseless abuse of innocent animals that we love and we enjoy. But I wonder how many of us also recoil at the senseless abuse and murder of innocent babies in the womb.

I stand here today to support the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, H.R. 36. I support it because it is backed by science. It protects the unborn from suffering. It saves innocent lives. It promotes American values, values that made this country great, that understand the sanctity of life and the beauty of our creator's evidence in this world today in human beings.

I ask my colleagues to join with me and many others this week as we support H.R. 36, and we say to our creator and our God: Thank you for innocent life itself, and may it be preserved and protected.

WE HAVE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO STOP MASS SHOOTINGS IN AMERICA

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, when will it end? When will the carnage end? How

many more times are we going to have to turn on our televisions or our phones or get a text message to talk about some other mass shooting in America?

We have got to do something to stop this now.

There is no reason that someone like the killer should have automatic weapons or semiautomatic weapons.

I believe people have legitimate reasons to have guns, but not legitimate reasons to have automatic weapons to mow down so many innocent people. And it will happen again and again and again, because we refuse to do anything to have sensible gun control in this country.

My heart goes out to the families, but thoughts and prayers are not enough. A moment of silence in the House is not enough. We need to do something now to have sensible gun control laws; otherwise, these words ring hollow.

This country is hurting, and guns are doing it, guns in the hands of wrong people.

Again, guns for hunters, guns to keep people safe, I am not opposed to that, but I certainly am opposed to automatic weapons. Nobody needs automatic weapons. They are weapons of war, and they should not be in the hands of anybody who is unstable.

CONGRATULATING HARLEY DREW ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, the beloved Augusta radio host Harley Drew, on his recent retirement. He is one of the most successful and longest tenured radio personalities in the history of Georgia broadcasting.

Harley was born at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and has always called Waynesboro, Georgia, home.

He became interested in radio and electronics at the age of nine, and got a part-time job at WBRO in Waynesboro at the age of 14, where he worked full time after graduating from high school.

Harley moved to Augusta in 1962 to help put WFNL on the air. I can remember in my high school days listening to "Handsome Harley Drew" on WBBQ, as he was known for playing the all-time best oldies.

He is also a past recipient of Augusta's Best Radio Personality award from Augusta Magazine, was given the Louis Harris Award by the West Augusta Rotary, and has received numerous State and national awards for programming excellence.

Harley was a founding board member of the Georgia Radio Hall of Fame and also served as its vice president. In honor of his career achievements, he was inducted into the Georgia Radio Hall of Fame in 2011.

Harley anchored Augusta's morning news on WGAC until his retirement last Friday, September 29, 2017.

Harley, congratulations on a remarkable career.

GIVE BLOOD TO HONOR THOSE AFFECTED IN LAS VEGAS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I don't need to add any more adjectives or an official statement about what happened in Las Vegas last night. It has been said: horrific.

What I would like to add is that we see examples of people pulling together to help each other that isn't reported very much. In this horrific thing, giving thanks to the SWAT team who was able to put down that shooter without making it even worse, the emergency personnel, people helping each other get out of the way, hop over a fence, whatever it took, and the people who are so highly impacted in the hospitals around Las Vegas right now making heroic efforts, trying to keep up with the flow there, these are things we should dwell on.

Pray for those who are gone, who are injured, who are on life support right now. Console those who are around them. And an action item we can all do wherever you are: give blood. I do, six-gallon club—not to brag, but it is important.

I ask all of you, if you have never thought of it before, because only a couple percent of Americans do, think about it now, and go do it. It doesn't hurt: just a little pinprick here to test your blood, and just a little needle right here to take that all-important pint.

Just the other day, our friend STEVE SCALISE, it is a miracle he was here on this floor. It was a miracle he got off that ballfield, because he had 18 pints, units of blood waiting for him there, a miracle he was able to even walk out of that emergency room.

Give blood. It makes a big difference.

PROTECTING THE UNBORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House of Representatives will vote on the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, and before that occurs, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come to the floor tonight and just remind all of us that the United States of America is, indeed, a unique nation that is premised on the foundation that we are all created equal and that each of us is endowed by our creator with the unalienable right to live.

But 2 years ago, Mr. Speaker, numerous video recordings were released that

incontrovertibly documented corporate officers and employees of Planned Parenthood casually discussing their rampant practice of harvesting and selling the little body parts from many of the hundreds of thousands of innocent babies they are guilty of killing in their abortion clinics across this Nation every year.

□ 1930

Now, these videos irrefutably reveal officers of Planned Parenthood haggling over the price of these little organs and body parts and casually describing ways of killing these little babies, often using much more painful methods, like partial-birth abortion, to make sure that the saleable organs of these little babies remained undamaged.

One of these videos described an incident where one of Planned Parenthood's employees calls one of the younger employees over to witness something that was "kind of cool;" that one of those baby's hearts was still beating. The older employee said: "Okay. This is really a good fetus, and it looks like we can procure a lot from it. We are going to procure a brain."

Then, using scissors, together the two employees, starting at the baby's chin, cut upward through the center of this child's face and then pulled out the baby's little brain and placed it in a container where it could later be sold.

Mr. Speaker, I find it so crushingly sad that the only time this little baby was ever held by anyone in his very short life was by those who cut his face open to take his brain.

Have we forgotten that, not so long ago, authorities entered the clinic of Dr. Kermit Gosnell, and there they found a torture chamber for little babies that defies, within the constraints of the English language, any description. The grand jury, at that time, reported: "Dr. Kermit Gosnell had a simple solution for unwanted babies. He killed them. He didn't call it that. He called it ensuring fetal demise. The way he ensured fetal demise was by sticking scissors in the back of the baby's neck and cutting the spinal cord. He called it snipping. Over the years, there were hundreds of snippings."

Ashley Baldwin, one of Dr. Gosnell's employees, said she saw babies breathing, and she described one as 2 feet long, that no longer had eyes or a mouth, but were, in her words, making like, this "screeching noise." And she said it "sounded like a little alien."

For God's sake, Mr. Speaker, this can't be who we truly are. The fact is that more than 18,000 late-term, pain-capable, unborn children were torturously killed, without anesthesia, in America in just the last year. Many of them cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid going over the vocal cords, we couldn't hear them. It is the worst human rights atrocity in the United States of America.

Now, I know that many of those on this floor and the American media will hold to the standard line and try to cloak all of this in the name of freedom of choice; but I would beg them, Mr. Speaker, to open their hearts and ask themselves what is so liberating about brutally and painfully dismembering living, helpless little human babies.

In spite of all the political noise, protecting these little, helpless, pain-capable, unborn children and their mothers is not a Republican issue, and it is not a Democrat issue. It is a basic test of our basic humanity and who we are as a human family.

Mr. Speaker, the sands of time should blow over this Capitol dome before we ever give Planned Parenthood one more dime of taxpayer money. And in the name of humanity, Democrat Senators should not be allowed to filibuster the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act in the Senate because passing it would prevent the vast majority of these ongoing evil acts of torture against helpless, little, pain-capable human babies that these videos have now shown so clearly to the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), one of the greatest pro-life champions in the history of the United States and a precious friend.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding, for his passion, for his courage, and for authoring the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, and for doing so so informed. TRENT FRANKS has been an incredible defender of life, and I want to thank him for his leadership on this extraordinarily important human rights piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, overwhelming majorities of Americans, some 60 to 64 percent, according to the pollsters, support legal protection for pain-capable unborn children.

Today, we know that unborn babies not only die but suffer excruciating pain during dismemberment abortions, a cruelty that rips arms and legs off of helpless children.

A former abortionist, Dr. Anthony Levatino, testified before Congress, before TRENT FRANKS' committee. Here is a man who has performed 1,200 abortions, over 100 late-term abortions up to 24 weeks; and he said, and I quote in part: "Imagine if you can that you are a pro-choice obstetrician/gynecologist like I was." Using a sopher 13 clamp with rows of ridges or teeth, "grasp anything you can" inside the womb. "Once you've grasped something inside, squeeze on the clamp to set the jaws and pull hard, really hard. You feel something let go and out pops a fully formed leg about 6 inches long. Reach in again"—he goes on—"and grasp anything you can and out pops an arm."

He noted that a "second trimester D&E abortion is a blind procedure." So he says: "Reach in again and again and

again with that clamp and tear out the spine, intestines, heart, and lungs."

Mr. Speaker, even swing vote Justice Anthony Kennedy, in his dissent in the *Stenberg v. Carhart* decision, said about dismemberment abortions: "The fetus, in many cases, dies just as a human adult or child would: It bleeds to death as it is torn limb from limb. The fetus can be alive at the beginning of the dismemberment process and can survive for a time while its limbs are being torn off."

Mr. Speaker, even if pain wasn't present, dismembering a child is violence against children, and it is inhumane. But these babies actually suffer in this process.

Dr. Robert White, professor of neurosurgery at Case Western Reserve, has said an unborn child at 20 weeks' gestation "is fully capable of experiencing pain . . . without question, abortion is a dreadfully painful experience. . . ."

Dr. Anand wrote, and he is an expert on pain: "The human fetus possesses the ability to experience pain from 20 weeks' gestation. . . ." He points out that it is even worse for an unborn child at that time period because "the highest density of pain receptors per square inch of skin in human development occurs in utero from 20 to 30 weeks' gestation. Thus, a fetus at 20 to 32 weeks' gestation would experience a much more intense pain than older infants or children or adults." We have known this for some time, Mr. Speaker.

In 2006, I authored the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act that garnered 250 votes in favor—including 40 Democrats—to 162 against. I remember thinking on that day of the vote: How can anyone refuse to make child pain information part of an informed consent?

Congressman TRENT FRANKS has authored four—count them, four—extraordinarily important human rights bills over the years to actually protect pain-capable babies in Federal law from the violence of abortion, including the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act that passed the House in 2013 and again in 2015. Tragically, President Obama vowed to veto this child protection legislation, and the Senate failed to pass it.

However, this year, we have a President who said, and he put out a Statement of Administration Policy: You present this legislation to me, and I will sign it.

Finally, not only will babies be protected by TRENT FRANKS' law at 5 months, and the pain suffered by these babies will be averted, but H.R. 36 requires that a late abortion, permitted under very limited circumstances, provide "the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive" and that "a second physician trained in neonatal resuscitation" be "present and prepared to provide care to the child" to the same degree as the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act of 2002 prescribed.

Following the care required to be rendered, the born-alive child shall im-

mediately be transported and admitted to a hospital.

Sixteen States have passed legislation that resembles this important legislation that we will have before us on this House floor.

My good friend and colleague talked about Dr. Gosnell. Four years ago, Dr. Gosnell was convicted of murder, conspiracy to kill, and involuntary manslaughter, and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Even though the news of Gosnell's child slaughter was largely suppressed by the mainstream media, many of my colleagues may remember that Gosnell operated a large Philadelphia abortion clinic where women died and countless babies were dismembered, all gruesome procedures causing excruciating pain to the victim.

This is a humane bill, a major human rights bill, and, again, I want to thank my great friend and colleague for his leadership. It is extraordinary.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my dear friend and colleague, Mr. TRENT FRANKS, who is certainly a champion of our time in standing up for life, for our national defense, and has a heart so big that comes through in everything he does. And certainly, tonight, I think we see the gentleman's heart for unborn children, certainly at the beginning of 6 months of age, who deserve to live.

The gentleman's bill, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, also known as Micah's Law, will do that, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it tomorrow.

But tonight, Mr. Speaker, I want to share with you a heartwarming story that puts a face to what we are talking about. It is one thing to say 20 weeks old, a baby, unborn baby, but it is another thing to look at the picture of Micah Pickering—and his picture is up there, as well as up front.

Micah Pickering was born at 20 weeks' gestation. He was born at the age of which we are talking about that you are trying to say we should not allow for abortions at this stage because they can live, and Micah is a living example of that.

You know, I want to share a little bit about what his mother shared about his story, with Micah, her son. His mother's name is Danielle, and she recalled that when Micah was born, he cried twice immediately, and that was music to her ears and contrary to the worst case scenarios for which Micah's parents were bracing.

This is what Danielle talked about during those first few moments. She said: "The second I was able to meet Micah changed my life. He was so small. I didn't know what to expect. Would he look normal? Could I bond with this baby? Those questions were a mess in my head as I was wheeled into his room 2 hours after his birth. The sight I saw was a perfectly formed

baby.” At 20 weeks, at the beginning of 6 months, she says he was a perfectly formed baby.

“Lots of tubes and monitors all set up to be an artificial womb to this baby born too soon. My husband and I stood there just staring at this beautiful little boy who we were told we couldn’t hold, as the skin was so sensitive it would hurt him. We were told we could press lightly on the skin, so we each put our hand near him.

“He”—the baby, Micah—“reached up and held our fingers. This was the strongest grasp I would ever feel. I never knew how strong a baby was until that moment. He had a powerful grip on our hands and now”—has a powerful grip on—“our hearts.”

This little miracle baby spent 4 months in intensive care. He underwent heart surgery 2 weeks after birth, weighing a little over a pound. He was on a ventilator for a while. He was on morphine to ease the pain, and this was the size of the diaper that he wore.

□ 1945

Isn’t that incredible?

But he wore a diaper that size, and this little preemie, when he was born, he was the size of an M&M package. It is hard to believe that a baby could be that small and live, but that is about the size of a baby at this age, 20 weeks old, the beginning of 6 months, and he lived. His name is Micah. Now he is a healthy, energetic kindergarten student.

Micah’s story is beautiful. It is a miracle. And we thank God for Micah’s fighting spirit, for his parents’ unwavering love for their son, and for the team of doctors, nurses, surgeons, and medical professionals who tended to Micah during those first few months.

But the point about Micah is he puts a face on this that, from the moment of conception to the birth of a child, the growth and development of the baby is miraculous. With advances in medical science, we can better understand what is happening at each stage of development.

When these little babies are just 4 weeks old, the basics of their nervous system are developed. By 8 weeks after fertilization, the unborn child reacts to touch. After 20 weeks, and that is the age of the gentleman’s bill, the unborn child reacts to stimuli that would be recognized as painful if applied to an adult human, for example, by recoiling.

We know that by the 20th week, the beginning of the sixth month, unborn babies, children the same age as Micah when he was born, respond to painful stimuli by flinching and jerking, just like you and I would if we were burned or hurt in some way.

Micah’s parents were told that they could not hold their little son, that it would be too painful for the newborn. But babies at this stage are actually hyperresponsive to pain since the neurological features that inhibit or regulate pain sensations do not develop until much later in pregnancy.

Certainly, these babies should not undergo this pain and, certainly, not have to have their life snuffed out through abortion. When a mother and her unborn baby undergo a surgical procedure, doctors give fetal pain medication, or fetal anesthesia to the baby so that he or she does not feel the procedure. This is common practice. It is common sense.

The legislation before the House tomorrow will ensure that unborn children are not subjected to the excruciating pain of being euthanized in the womb. And this is where I wish the story could end, that all children be given a fighting chance like Micah. But that is not the case for too many children whose lives are taken from them before they can take their first breath.

Late-term abortion procedures, abortions performed on babies 20 weeks and later in pregnancies, are graphic, detestable, and, tragically, allowed in this country.

In a dissent opinion that Representative SMITH just shared, and I want to share it again, Justice Kennedy offered the insight into this grizzly practice. He said: “The fetus, in many cases, dies just as a human adult or born child would: it bleeds to death as it is torn limb from limb.”

Aborted, unborn babies endure unspeakable pain in the most horrific manner possible. Knowing that innocent 20-week babies acutely experience pain and endure inhuman dismemberment or poisoning should be enough to pierce each of our hearts and prick our sensibilities.

Micah’s Law, the legislation that would protect the lives of unborn children halfway through pregnancy because of their ability to feel pain, is our call to action.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to leave you with the words of Micah’s mom as she watched her tiny infant grow into the child he is today, and it speaks to the potential of every one of these children that we hope from now on will have a chance to live like Micah. She said: “He still had his eyes fused shut. You could see his chest vibrate from the ventilators. It was heartbreaking. Here was a boy who we would see get to take his first sneeze, his first smile. We would get to see the hiccups from the outside. We would watch his eyes slowly unfuse. We would watch his hair grow in and we would watch his body develop. It was indescribably the most joyful time of our life.”

So as we anticipate tomorrow’s historic vote, I ask my colleagues to lend their support for Micah and thousands of children just like him who want to live, who want to experience life, and who have so much to give.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON.)

I am very grateful that you are here tonight, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressmen FRANKS,

SMITH, HARTZLER, KING, and all of the others, all of my colleagues who have spent so many years working for the sanctity of every human life in this Chamber. For nearly 20 years, I have been working to defend the sanctity of every human life in the courts, and that brings us here today.

You and I have talked about this many times that it is our Nation’s birth certificate, the Declaration of Independence, which states so succinctly what has been known as the American creed. And in that creed, as articulated in the second paragraph of the Declaration—we know the language well—“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

The reason the Founders recognized that fundamental freedom, the right to life, and recognized it first is because it is so essential to who we are as human beings. The reason the Founders recognized that and sought to put it first is because they understood, they acknowledged, that we are made in the image of a Holy God. We are made in the image of that creator who gave us those rights. And because of that, every single human life has inestimable dignity and value.

And are values not related in any way to our socioeconomic status, the color of our skin, where we went to school, what we make for a living, what we can contribute to society, our talents, how good-looking we are—totally irrelevant. Our value is inherent because it is given to us by our creator.

So tomorrow, because of your hard work, we have a landmark opportunity with the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. I am proud to stand in support of that bill and to assist as a cosponsor and to encourage all of our colleagues to support this important legislation.

Why do we do this? Because, as has been mentioned, at 20 weeks’ gestation, a baby is developed enough to live and grow outside the womb, and at 20 weeks, a baby can feel pain. Yet, in the United States, we remain one of only seven nations on the planet—including North Korea and China, I might add—that allows abortions after 20 weeks. It is a practice that kills thousands of innocent babies each year, as we know.

A law that allows someone to end the life of an unborn baby when that child can live outside the womb and feel the pain inflicted by this violent procedure is simply unconscionable. These procedures can be fatal not only for the child, by the way, but for the mother, as well, because abortion performed later in the pregnancy puts the mother at greater risk.

We have to pass this bill to ensure that America leads in the fight to protect the most vulnerable among us. All life is precious, and this bill protects the life of the mother and that of the unborn child.

For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to stand with us in support of this important legislation and to join us in the efforts to defend the defenseless.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I so sincerely thank the gentleman.

I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING), my precious friend.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding to me, and I appreciate the years that we have sat elbow to elbow on the Judiciary Committee and on the Constitution and Civil Justice Subcommittee and have done the battle for life. What I am reflecting here, tonight, is the sequence of pro-life leaders that I have had the privilege to walk these floors and halls with.

When TRENT FRANKS and I arrived at this Congress, Henry Hyde had the lead, and he did so many glorious things to lay the foundation for life now. CHRIS SMITH was there at his side the full time that I was here, and then Joe Pitts.

I want to remember Joe Pitts, as well, and TRENT FRANKS. So I put those four gentlemen in a category of the leaders in this movement here on the floor of the House of Representatives. I remain counting those moments precious that I have to serve and work on this cause with each of you.

This bill that we will bring to the floor tomorrow on a rules vote and a final passage vote will pass this floor of the House of Representatives—I have every confidence that it will—and it will be messaged over to the Senate. There is a lot of work that has been put into this, the 16 States that have passed the legislation that is similar to H.R. 36, Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

I just add that, when Mr. JOHNSON mentioned the seven countries that allow for an elective abortion after 20 weeks, of course, the United States; the other six—he mentioned a couple of them—North Korea, China, which will impose forceable abortions on mothers, that cruel and heinous activity, Vietnam, Singapore, Netherlands, and Canada. I think Canada might have been affected with the United States along the way. The Netherlands is one of the more liberal countries in the world.

And this list is not a list that I want the United States of America on. I want us out. I want to be able to send this message that a baby who has a chance at survival at 20 weeks of development from conception, that at 20 weeks, that precious little baby that VICKY HARTZLER so well described in her presentation here, 65 percent of premature babies born in the range of 22 to 26 weeks will survive—65 percent.

We all know one or two of those little babies who are walking around. I ran into a friend after church a couple of weeks ago at the grocery store who I hadn't seen in several years, and I asked him how his son was doing.

And I am not going to use names here on purpose.

I asked him how his son was doing. He said: Oh, he is doing fine. He is 30 years old now. He has got a great job out there. He has got a family. I have got grandchildren.

All things were wonderful. He knew why I asked him, because we were doing a job that he was on back then when that little premature boy was born 21 or 22 weeks old. When he came back from 2 weeks of sitting next to that child where he could come back home again and go to work because he now had a good chance that that little boy would be able to survive, I said: We will spend all kinds of money, won't we? We will do anything. We will go to any length to keep a child alive who is born premature.

A child that is born at 20 weeks, 21 weeks, 22, 23, 24, 26 weeks, there is no expense that we will spare ourselves from because that life, we know, is so precious.

Well, the life in the womb is as precious as the life out of the womb, and the pain that that child feels at 20 weeks, 22 weeks, 24 weeks. But this little boy—he remembered what I said to him that day. I said: You are doing everything to save this little child's life, but when you go into the polls and vote, you are going to vote on the other side of that issue like you always have.

And he called me a name that day, kind of like the President did some of the NFL players, but he remembered exactly what I had said to him 30-some years ago. And he said: You know, you really straightened me out that day—because I gave him my remarks on that.

Now, that is a change in heart and a change in minds. America has undergone a change in heart and a change in minds. In fact, I stepped into a member of my staff's office here just last Friday, and the frame of the ultrasound of his firstborn is there, and it has been there for 9 years beside his desk. That little child, that little child they first bonded with him by looking at the ultrasound.

That little child, by the way, is my godson.

So each one of these lives are so utterly precious, and we are not going to stop. We are going to defend every life we can. We are going to protect every life we can. We are going to do the right thing that we can for the babies that we can save. Meanwhile, this goes on the conscience of America when we fall short.

But we are going to fall short tomorrow. We are going to succeed. We are going to find a way to move this legislation and others through the House and through the Senate to a President's desk who will sign that legislation.

When we contemplate the litigation that is bound to take place—because there are people that are dug in deeply on promoting and defending abortion—we are going to have a new Supreme Court. One more appointment to that

Court and we will get this past them, and a number of other pieces of legislation as well.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for his attention, his years of work on this very precious cause, and all of the rest who have done so much to step up and defend these lives. I am looking forward to tomorrow. There should be a great shout of joy coming off the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), my very good friend.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I express my gratitude and thanks to my colleague and good friend, TRENT FRANKS, for yielding and for his leadership and tireless work on behalf of the unborn.

Congressman FRANKS' fight to save each and every life is one that we should all be championing, and I am proud and pleased to be standing by his side today. I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to fight for the unborn in venues around the world at various multilateral institutions standing on behalf of the unborn.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor in support of H.R. 36, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. If signed into law, this legislation will prohibit abortions starting at 20 weeks, almost 5 months, in all 50 States.

The pro-abortion lobby will tell you to disregard the rights of unborn children, but science shows that they are just as human as you and I. In fact, emerging science has proven that babies feel pain inside the womb as early as 20 weeks old.

In cases of fetal surgeries occurring after the 20-week mark, anesthesia is regularly administered to the fetus to protect against fetal pain. Doctors have also experienced babies born prematurely at or near 20 weeks who experience pain in the same way that a full-term baby or an adult would.

It is inhumane to subject these innocent beings to that gruesome practice of abortion, knowing full well that they will feel every painful moment.

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Mr. Speaker, I think about my own children and how excited my wife and I were throughout her pregnancies. Even without today's developed science, we knew that our children were special, that they were alive, that they were helpless, and that we had the responsibility for their safety and well-being in the womb. We never would have intentionally caused pain or harm to any of our unborn children.

But by allowing this practice to continue, we are not only torturing these helpless babies who will be dismembered limb by limb, we are also ending their lives. They will never realize their God-given potential on this Earth. They will never be mothers, wives, husbands, and fathers. They will never be siblings. They will never be able to fulfill the measure of their creation. Their last memory will be filled with great agony and distress.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing that we do in Congress that will have efficacy if we choose to fail to protect the most innocent among us. If, at the very least, we cannot defend those who feel pain, then we are unworthy to lead this Nation.

We have a great responsibility and charge to protect these children, and we will not fail them. Please vote “yes” tomorrow.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS), and I thank him for coming to the floor tonight.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona and all those who have spoken, obviously, so emotionally and so passionately about protecting the unborn.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 36. I am a strong believer in the sanctity of life. I believe each and every person, born and unborn, is a child of God.

Our children are our future and a gift to all of us, and respecting the right to life is one of the strongest values we hold as Americans. That is why I come to the floor today to urge my colleagues to support the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would stop late-term abortions.

Studies have shown that unborn children can feel pain in the womb 20 weeks after pregnancy, an agonizing fact with disturbing indications that we know that this is a gruesome act against the unborn.

As a proud father of three, we know, when those babies come into this world, that their cries are cries of joy; it is a cry of life. That is what we are protecting. No child of God should be subjected to the torturous pain that comes as a result of a late-term abortion.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that my constituents sent me to Washington to promote a culture and respect for life. They know as well as I do that it is vital for us to fight for those who have no voice and cannot be heard.

This bill shows the world that America will stand up to protect the most vulnerable amongst us. I strongly urge my colleagues to support the passage of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

Let this Congress and the vote of each and every Member be known as the one who stood up for life by speaking out against the horrors of abortion.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

It is now my honor to yield to the honorable gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM).

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on this piece of legislation, which will, quite literally, save lives. I am so grateful that we are having this debate on the House floor at this point.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 36, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. I believe that every life, including an unborn baby's life, has dignity and value. But more than 40 years ago, the Supreme Court handed down a decision in direct contradiction to those principles.

In the decades since, I have joined with many families and my colleagues in the House and many across the Nation fighting to undo the damage that has been done. We have got a long way to go in this country, but the passage of H.R. 36 would be a step in the right direction.

A strong and growing body of medical research provides evidence that pain receptors develop in unborn babies at no later than 20 weeks. Medical professionals have testified about seeing babies that age recoil from painful stimuli. Others have been able to measure increases in stress hormones when babies inside the womb are subjected to pain.

If fetal surgery is performed, that baby is given anesthesia in many cases to shield them from the pain of surgery. Yet our Nation's laws allow for these babies to endure the pain of a life-ending abortion. It is absolutely heartbreaking.

My husband and I knew that our lives had completely changed the minute that we heard our oldest daughter's heartbeat. I will never forget that moment. I hope that she knows how proud we are of the generous and compassionate person that she has grown up to become. She has grown up quickly, and I love to think back about those days when she was still a little girl and when she wasn't much taller than I.

We read a lot back then. We read books. We read the Bible. One of her favorite books was Dr. Seuss' book, “Horton Hears a Who!” which says: “A person is a person no matter how small.” Each time we read that line, I thought back to those first moments when I heard her muffled heartbeats and thought about Cassidy and thought about “a person is a person no matter how small.”

I had that blessed moment three different times with my three different children, and I pray every day that each and every baby's heartbeat would be heard by parents who understand the gift that that life is from our God who loves them dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defend the smallest among us this week and pass H.R. 36, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank the gentlewoman for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my colleague from Arizona's bill, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, as well as the rights of the unborn. As a father of 4 children and a grandfather to 15

grandchildren, I strongly believe that life begins at conception. I wholeheartedly feel that nothing is more precious or beautiful than a life. I will do everything in my power to continue to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

Since the passage of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, nearly 60 million abortions have been performed. Mr. Speaker, this is a moral atrocity. I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 36, which would make it illegal to attempt or to perform an abortion if an unborn child is 20 weeks or older with exceptions. Science has proven that babies are capable of feeling pain at the start of the third trimester. It is imperative that we protect the lives of the unborn.

Our Nation was built upon the idea of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We guarantee that every American citizen has a right to pursue absolute happiness. Our Constitution guarantees that every American has the right to liberty and justice.

Should we, as Americans, not guarantee that every American has a right to life as well?

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill and the protection of the sanctity of life for all Americans.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very sincerely for his remarks. I am glad he came this way here recently.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very good friend, TRENT FRANKS, for yielding to me and for providing the leadership in the pro-life movement.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 36, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. As a proud father of 5 and a grandfather of 13, I firmly believe that the value of an unborn life cannot be understated.

H.R. 36 takes a crucial step to ensure that we protect thousands of innocent lives every year. Scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that unborn babies feel pain by at least 20 weeks of age. By 20 weeks, an unborn baby is so developed that he or she can hear and respond to sounds.

Ending these lives through abortion is both cruel and inhumane. There is no excuse. Our Nation must do better. We should not be one of only seven countries—including North Korea, Vietnam, and China—to have elective, on-demand abortion after 20 weeks of development. This is an abuse of the basic human rights, and it is unacceptable in the eyes of God and by any standard of human morality.

As Members of Congress, it is our duty and our moral obligation to pass H.R. 36 so that we may protect those who are the most defenseless. Mr. Speaker, our Declaration of Independence guarantees all Americans enjoy the unalienable right of life, and that includes the unborn.

Thanks to incredible advances in modern medicine, babies born at 20, 21,

and 22 weeks of age are able to survive. Our medical community strives to save and protect these premature babies, yet, in an inconsistent fashion, current policy permits aborting a child at that exact same stage of development.

Mr. Speaker, the sanctity of every human life must be protected. This bill affirms the humanity of the unborn while curbing the inhumanity of abortion. God knows that it is time that we hold abortionists who perform these late-term abortions accountable for their abhorrent actions.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very good friend from Texas very much for speaking on the floor tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS).

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague for yielding.

I, too, rise today in strong support of H.R. 36, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This bill would prohibit any elective abortion attempt of an unborn child who is 20 weeks or older, the age at which research shows children are able to feel pain.

I think it is worth noting that this landmark legislation is projected to save between 12,000 and 18,000 lives each year. These are individuals who will become fathers, mothers, technological innovators, servicemembers, and hardworking contributors to our great Nation.

Ten years ago, studies began to emerge proving that an unborn child is able to feel pain as early as 20 weeks post-fertilization. So as our Nation's understanding of fetal pain has become more advanced, protections for pain-capable unborn children have been signed into law in 20 States, including my home State of Indiana.

But that is not enough. Despite claims from many pro-abortion groups, late-term abortion is neither safe or, unfortunately, rare. As recently as 2014, it was estimated that 430 abortion facilities in the United States were willing to perform abortions on unborn children 20 weeks or older.

This sort of late-term abortion—at the point when the child can actually feel the procedure—will continue to happen without a Federal prohibition. Sixty percent of women, 56 percent of Independents, and 46 percent of Democrats support this sort of legislation. It has broad public support.

Let's ensure that all 50 States have protections for vulnerable pain-capable unborn children. I have advocated for these protections my entire career, from the State house in Indiana to here in the United States Congress.

That is why today I express my strong support for the passage of H.R. 36, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, introduced by my distinguished colleague, Congressman TRENT FRANKS of Arizona. I urge my colleagues tomorrow as well to support this important legislation.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BANKS very much for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, pre-born babies feel pain. The medical field has found clear evidence that pre-born babies have the capacity to feel intense pain at 20 weeks.

□ 2015

That is what this legislation is about. When a child's body is gruesomely dismembered, they feel pain. When the abortion doctor attempts to use a "less crunchy technique"—as we learned in last year's abhorrent videos about Planned Parenthood, which was their words—to procure more intact body parts, they feel pain.

Mr. Speaker, I shudder to think of the millions of lives taken from this world in such a gruesome and violent manner. Equally disturbing is the thought of how much pain has been endured by millions of pre-born babies whose lives have been cut short since *Roe v. Wade*.

We must do more to promote a culture of life in this country. We must do more to lessen a culture of violence. That is why I rise today in strong support of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. By acknowledging that babies feel the pain of abortion at 20 weeks, this legislation affirms the inherent humanity of the most innocent—unborn babies—in our country.

To add to that, this legislation also includes protections for babies that survive an attempted abortion. It ensures that children who do survive and are able to continue to live outside the womb are given the immediate medical attention they deserve so that they have a chance to live.

With growing developments in the medical field, children are able to survive outside the womb at earlier points in pregnancy. Such was the case for Micah Pickering, for whom this legislation is named. Micah was born at 20 weeks' gestation and is now a healthy 5-year-old.

The Congressional Budget Office recently reported that approximately 2,750 lives per year will be saved through this bill. That is 2,750 girls and boys; daughters and sons; brothers and sisters; and not medical waste, like opponents of this legislation would like you to believe.

The United States is only one of seven countries, including North Korea and China, that allow abortion after 20 weeks.

Are we really that kind of Nation? Does our Constitution not grant all Americans the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant they are?

Mr. Speaker, this is commonsense legislation. I urge every single Member of this body to take a deep look inside themselves and ask if they support not only inflicting pain on unborn babies,

but also denying these innocent babies their constitutional right to life.

I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona, for his leadership on this important issue.

If you want to stand for a culture of life, vote for this bill. If you want to take a stand against a culture of violence, vote for this bill.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I simply say that sometimes I think we kind of get caught up in things and we grow used to something that otherwise would horrify us.

Before the sun set this evening, we saw 3,000 unborn little Americans die a tragic and lonely death. That is in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Mr. Speaker, each time that took place, not only did a nameless little baby die a lonely and tragic death, but the mother was never the same again. All the gifts that that child might have brought to this world are now lost forever.

So, Mr. Speaker, I pray that somehow in this debate we would put aside which people are right and ask: What is the right thing for America?

The very creed of this country is the notion that all of us have the *Imago Dei*, or the image of God, stamped on our souls. If that is true, Mr. Speaker, then there is a far greater question here than we can ever imagine.

Mr. Speaker, I think if we ask ourselves the truest and deepest question, then perhaps we will begin to see the winds of change begin to blow in this country. That is very simply without all of the rationalization, without all of the gotchas and the what-ifs and the avoiding of the subject, and if we just ask ourselves one basic question: Does abortion kill a little baby?

If it does not, Mr. Speaker, then I sincerely am one that can get up out of this Chamber and never speak of it again. But if abortion really does kill a little human child, then those of us standing here in the seat of freedom, the greatest Nation in the history of the world, also stand here in the midst of the greatest human genocide in the history of the human family.

Mr. Speaker, that is not what we are called to do in this world, as the greatest Nation that ever had the chance to exist on this Earth.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that, as we debate the bill tomorrow, we can put aside anything but the truth and just examine in our own hearts who we really are. If we do that, I believe we will pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act on October 3, 2017. By the grace of God, it will go over to the Senate and they will find a way to bring this bill to the floor and send it to President Trump, who I have every conviction will sign the bill, and for which I am very grateful.

Mr. Speaker, God bless America, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend and colleague

TRENT FRANKS for his hard work on this important issue. I rise today in support of the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

Children are gifts from God—before and after they are born. They are tiny humans with endless potential and complete innocence.

This bill would stop the practice of ending these precious lives after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except in cases of rape or incest or necessity to save the mother's life.

Similar laws have been passed in about 16 states, and this Chamber passed similar legislation in 2015. The United States is 1 of only 7 countries that does not ban abortions of these 20-week-year-old unborn babies.

Science indicates that, at about this age, these children have the physical structures needed to feel pain.

We do not want anyone to have an unwanted pregnancy, but we want mothers to know that abortion is not their only option. And we want these children protected from pain and harm.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to protect our Nation's most innocent from inhumane suffering and premature death.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE IN NATURAL DISASTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to anchor this CBC Special Order hour.

Today, Monday, October 2, members of the Congressional Black Caucus will be speaking on the floor about the devastating impact of natural disasters, particularly hurricanes, and the critical role of the Federal Government's response.

In the wake of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and now Maria, the Federal Government has already deployed assets to affected regions, from HHS public health resources, the Coast Guard, the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, to Corps of Engineers flood-fighting projects.

In the coming weeks and months, additional resources will help shelter displaced Americans and get businesses back on their feet. Congress must also ensure that the Federal response to these disasters is just and equitable, and that communities of color are not directly or indirectly harmed by recovery efforts.

During this time, we will hear from other members of the Congressional Black Caucus and its friends to discuss

this issue. For the next 60 minutes, we have a chance to speak directly to the American people on issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), from the city of Newark.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands, Congresswoman PLASKETT, for hosting tonight's Special Order hour on the Federal Government's response to natural disasters. I believe that Ms. PLASKETT and the experience that she has had in her homeland can open our eyes to the devastation that has taken place in the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico as well.

It is unthinkable what these American citizens have been through over the last several weeks and will continue to suffer for months into the future.

Before I begin, I have a message for the families and the friends of the 58 innocent people whose lives were taken and the more than 500 who were injured in Las Vegas overnight: The country's compassion and thoughts go out to you. Our hearts break with yours.

For those injured, know that the American people are praying for your recovery.

To the first responders who put their lives on the line daily: Thank you.

What went down in Las Vegas last night was an act of terrorism. There is no other name for it. A deranged man with a small arsenal of firearms in a hotel room shot into a crowd of people at a concert. For an hour and 12 minutes, people watched the chaos unfold.

All the moments of silence in the world won't change what happened last night in Las Vegas, last year in Orlando, the year before in Charleston, and the list goes on.

Moments of silence used to be for showing honor or respect. There is nothing honorable about keeping silent and doing nothing to prevent gun violence. There is nothing respectful about rejecting every single reasonable gun bill proposed in the past decade.

What kind of Nation are we when we sacrifice human lives on the altar of the gun lobby?

The time to act was yesterday. The Federal Government has a moral duty to protect the welfare of American citizens before tragedy strikes. Yet, when the news moves from one disaster to another, we often suffer a sort of amnesia. We don't seem to remember or learn from our mistakes. We forget to fix the problems our citizens call us about every single day, and the problems inevitably repeat themselves.

One issue we seem to have repeated amnesia about is the high cost our constituents face when evacuating disaster areas, particularly after hurricanes. We read reports that, due to reduced capacity and high demand, flights are full or tickets are prohibitively expensive. Even if the airlines capped flight

prices, like they did last week, Federal taxes and fees can increase the price of an evacuation by 20 percent.

Recently, this hit home for me. One of my district staffers had family stuck in Puerto Rico. Because Hurricane Maria knocked out power and the telephone lines, my staffer had no way of knowing whether her loved ones were alive or dead. Many constituents have contacted our offices to let us know the difficulty they were having in trying to find out whether their loved ones were safe or not and how we could help.

She tried to get in touch with her family for 8 long days before hearing that they were okay. Then, when my staffer tried to book a flight for her family to get out of Puerto Rico, the only tickets available were for first class. First class. That is over \$700 on a flight full of disaster evacuees.

My D.C. staff did a little digging. Here is what they learned. The American people rely on the goodwill of the airlines to cap the prices of flights from disaster areas. The airlines decide when to start the cap and when to end it.

□ 2030

The airlines decide whether to keep selling first class tickets, and the Federal Government never stops charging taxes on flights from disaster areas.

American citizens deserve better, Mr. Speaker. That is why, starting this week, I will be introducing a series of bills to ease the financial burden Americans face when escaping natural disasters.

The humanitarian flight fairness package will do four things. First, it will allow the Secretary of Transportation to declare an aviation humanitarian crisis at specific airports covered by a Presidential declaration of emergency.

Second, it will allow the Secretary of Transportation to mandate that airlines charge no more than the median fair price of all seats sold on that route in the prior calendar year.

Third, the package would require the FAA to waive the \$5.60 passenger facility charge during an aviation humanitarian crisis.

And fourth, the package would require the FAA to waive the U.S. international transportation tax, which is \$18 on a flight from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

American citizens, Mr. Speaker. Too often Congress reacts to crisis. It is time for us to be proactive. It is time for us to legislate before another disaster strikes. The humanitarian flight fairness package is a commonsense solution to a problem that directly affects our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I always try to deal in common sense. As a matter of fact, I have a constituent back at home who constantly reminds me of how shallow I am, so I can do nothing but rely on common sense based on this constituent's feelings about me.

I want to thank the congresswoman again for hosting this Special Order hour, and I look forward to continue working with her as she addresses the issues faced by Americans affected by natural disasters, whether it is on the mainland or in the territories. They all are American citizens.

When it benefits this Nation to have Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands be a part of the United States, it does not hesitate. But when these American citizens are in trouble, they deserve the same rights that every American citizen benefits from in this great Nation—and it is great, and we want to continue to make sure that it remains great.

I continue to make the point, Mr. Speaker, that these are American citizens we are talking about. This is not foreign aid. This is not mutual aid. This is aiding American citizens in trouble, in disaster, in peril, no insulin for diabetics, no dialysis for kidney patients in two or three weeks. That is a death sentence, Mr. Speaker, and we cannot allow it to continue.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. PAYNE, my colleague, for those sentiments and that support to the people of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and to all the people of the Caribbean region. I am grateful for his empathy, for his support, the support of his constituents, as well as all the Members who have reached out to the Virgin Islands in these last several weeks.

The islands have been struck by something that is nothing less than cataclysmic in many respects, particularly in a time of year when we are preparing for what is right now our only viable and large industry, the tourism industry. We have lost that for this year. We have lost that on all of the islands, all of the regions at this time.

I know that so many of you have seen and expressed—so many Members on both sides of the aisle have come up to me and said, or texted or called and said, that they are there for me, and I am going to hold them to that. I am going to hold them to that because what we are facing in the Virgin Islands, I feel guilty right now—and I told my staff—being here, having air conditioning, sitting in a room. I feel guilty because I know what the children of the Virgin Islands are going through right now.

There is no air conditioning. There is no light on the islands right now. Many of the people, many of the communities are in utter darkness, and as the heat rises with the amount of moisture that is in the air, we know that there will be health hazards that are about to happen in terms of mosquitoes, with dengue, chikungunya, and all other kinds of diseases that are going to be occurring.

Mr. PAYNE. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PLASKETT. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PAYNE. Let me just say in terms of your guilt. It is not a guilt. It should

not be guilt. It is an obligation for you to be here in the people's House to represent your constituents here, to be their voice. That is why they sent you here to Washington. So do not be guilty about doing the job you have been sent to do.

Ms. PLASKETT. I know that that is why I am here because I need to be their voice, because they are voiceless right now. If you look on national media, you hear about what is happening in Puerto Rico, and, Lord knows, I feel for our fellow islanders, our brothers and sisters over there, but very rarely do you hear about what is happening in the Virgin Islands.

On September 6, Hurricane Irma, one of the most powerful Atlantic storms this century, destroyed the islands of St. John and St. Thomas, the islands that are part of the district that I represent. Three weeks later, the island of St. Croix was devastated by Maria, a second Category 5 hurricane ripping through the U.S. Virgin Islands in less than a month. Both Hurricanes Irma and Maria have wreaked havoc in the U.S. territories of the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and other Caribbean nations.

We forget that there are other places in the Caribbean that have also been struck, St. Martin and Sint Maarten, Barbuda, Anguilla, our very close neighbors, the British Virgin Islands, Tortola, Anegada, Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke, places that Americans love to go to, to vacation, to enjoy themselves, not thinking about the lives of the people that are there or not there anymore.

We know that right now the island of Barbuda is without an inhabitant, without an inhabitant in centuries. There is no one on Barbuda after the hurricane.

Turks and Caicos, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, one that also strikes me is Dominica. Dominica was not hit by the first Hurricane Irma, and that little island nation reached out to the U.S. Virgin Islands, reached out to Puerto Rico and said: We don't have much, but we are going to give you the money that we have. We, as a government, will give you 200,000. We will bring relief. We will bring whatever we can.

And 2 weeks later, Hurricane Maria struck them and has devastated that island.

Their Prime Minister went to the United Nations a week ago and begged, begged the support of the free world, begged the support of the members of the United Nations to support them.

Although the full extent of the two hurricanes' impact has yet to be assessed, it is clear that, in the Caribbean, the damage from these storms appears to be unparalleled.

President Trump issued major disaster declaration for the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Dozens of deaths and hundreds of injuries have been reported alongside widespread infrastructure damage all throughout the Caribbean.

I received a text just this morning from members of my family who are

still looking for loved ones on the island of St. Croix. That is why, in the days and months ahead, we must continue to work together to ensure that the individuals and families impacted by these devastating storms receive all the aid they need. The catastrophic destruction caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria demands massive amounts of aid to address the overwhelming needs of the countless victims who now face the daunting task of rebuilding their lives.

FEMA has been on the ground in the Virgin Islands even before Irma hit the islands of St. John and St. Thomas. There are now more than 12,600 Federal staff engaged in response and recovery operations from Hurricanes Maria and Irma in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, representing nearly three dozen departments and agencies.

Storms of this magnitude require the full attention and support of the entire Nation. The people of the Virgin Islands have lost their homes and possessions. Businesses have been lost alongside hospitals, schools, utility systems, and other vital infrastructure.

To give you an example, after Irma, Roy Schneider Medical Center, the only hospital on the island of St. Thomas, was partially destroyed, its roof ripped off, its walls caved in, windows blown out. Patients needed to be evacuated to the island of St. Croix and to San Juan to be at Juan Luis Hospital on St. Croix and additional hospitals on San Juan, as well as the veterans facility there.

Of course, people were thinking that St. Croix, after Irma, would be the base. As people on St. Thomas and St. John were reeling from the devastation of Irma, post offices were gone, schools annihilated, mud slides began after additional rains, people in Coral Bay on St. John felt lost, isolated, trapped. Many people had days, almost weeks before they could get out and be in the rest of the public population.

When Maria came, Maria struck what we thought would be our base camp, the island of St. Croix, and as luck would have it, the only functional hospital left in the Virgin Islands, the hospital of Juan Luis was breached by Hurricane Maria and has now been condemned by the Army Corps of Engineers.

What facility will Virgin Islanders use? Will we continue to be in tents manned by the brave men and women of our military who have come down to support us? Will we operate from an operating room, an emergency room in a box, what they have given us thus far?

That can't be. We have one functioning operating room that is being held together by the good graces and MacGyvering of the men and women of Juan Luis Hospital right now. Should that be for American citizens?

I went on distribution lines. I went to grocery stores where people were waiting for hours. I am telling you hours—3 hours to get gas; 3, 4 hours, the entire time of a curfew, to go on a distribution line to get a couple of packs of

water and some MREs for a family, standing out in the hot Caribbean sun. People were sharing umbrellas, sharing water, singing with each other trying to keep their spirits up.

I met a man who had his veteran's cap on, Vietnam vet, people who are members of The American Legion and asking me: "I fought for this country; I am an American citizen; do they think about us? I have not seen us on the news. My family tells me that we are not on the news," because, of course, his TV is not working, because almost all of the Virgin Islands is in darkness.

□ 2045

We have been able, through the valiant effort of our water and power authority and the linemen and others who are out there, to bring power to critical structures; to our government house; to the main blocks in Christiansted; to parts of Charlotte Amalie, the capital of the Virgin Islands; to the airport so that relief planes can come in and out. That is who is in light right now.

But for so many others and children right now, it is darkness for them. The couple of hours that they have outside of the curfew are to be making the rounds to get ice, to keep insulin refrigerated in their homes, to keep milk for children and formula for babies cold before it goes bad. That is the daily struggle now of Virgin Islanders, American citizens, veterans, people who pledge their allegiance to this flag, people who are proud to say that they are American citizens.

As we saw on the mainland in the United States following Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, and, most recently, Harvey, Americans need to come together again with compassion and care. I have heard commitment from the President and my colleagues in Congress to the U.S. territories receiving the support they need.

Moving forward, I am hopeful, but vigilant, and I will make sure that they keep to their promise and their commitment that President Trump and this Congress delivers on the promises to support their fellow Americans in the Caribbean region. This is a plea by me on behalf of my people to keep us in your thoughts, prayers, and support in the coming months and years. May our collective attention span endure enough through the constant new cycle so that we can come together to move beyond relief to healing and prosperity.

This is an opportunity. I keep trying to tell our young people on the islands who are in despair, who have low morale, that this is an opportunity for us to leapfrog technology, to create the kind of Virgin Islands, for the Virgin Islands to be the beacon in the Caribbean region, the beacon of what American might can do when it does what it is supposed to do.

It is this Congress' constitutional responsibility to the territories. The benign neglect that this Congress has

gotten away with for the last 100 years needs to stop right now. They need to stop wagging their finger and telling Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands that they have not done what they are supposed to do when this Congress knows that they are not doing the right thing by those territories. Our formulas are different. The money that we receive is different. We get the short shrift on every bill that comes on this floor. Yet, still, you expect us to stretch that out like the poor stepchild that you think we are to make do and keep quiet.

But it is going to stop right now. We cannot be quiet anymore, because not only are we hungry, 30 percent of the children of the Virgin Islands live in poverty, but now we are blind as well. There is no cell reception in most of the areas of the Virgin Islands. While I was down there last week, my staff and I roamed the islands with our cell phones, sitting in bypasses, sitting in areas with others, trying to get a signal to plead with the National Security Council, plead with FEMA, and others to do the right thing by the Virgin Islands.

Given the enormity of the challenges ahead, the Virgin Islands will require the coordinated and sustained financial commitment of the United States. For this reason, I ask that Members of Congress fully support inclusion of funding in forthcoming disaster supplemental packages that will aid in short-term as well as long-term relief, recovery, and reconstruction of the Virgin Islands. The international community, including the United States, has an obligation to work with affected governments to restore infrastructure, provide critical relief, and help recovery and build back our islands. We must act quickly to save lives, ensure that those in the Virgin Islands are back on the road to swift recovery.

Listen, I know we are hearing that FEMA is on the ground, that supplies are there, and that things are moving along. I must admit, FEMA is on the ground. I see the supplies in the cartons, in the containers on our ports, and I hear the discussions at daily briefings that go on at our local emergency management system to how they are working hand in hand with FEMA. I believe that the Army Corps and the Department of Defense and FEMA are there and they want to lend a hand.

But something is not working, whether it is in the local government, a dysfunction there, or dysfunction in communications, or dysfunction at the highest levels of the Federal Government. Because when I go to neighborhoods like Whim, when I go to Tutu High Rise, when I go to Coral Bay, when I go to Hannah's Rest, when I go to Frederiksted and talk with people and they tell me they haven't had water in a week, something is wrong, and something needs to be done by this Congress that has the responsibility for the Virgin Islands.

How can a child in the United States say that they don't have water? How

can a child in the United States say that water is streaming over them because many of the roofs in many of these areas are completely gone?

So what I wanted to do was to walk the Members of Congress and you, Mr. Speaker, through the destruction that I have seen with my eyes in the Virgin Islands.

What you see right here is a home. This is a private homeowner's home completely gone. It looks like a construction site. It looks as if they are trying to start building when, in fact, this was someone's home before.

Additionally, this is another home that now looks like a construction site that people are living in. People can no longer be here. They have abandoned—they have had to leave this home.

I have additional things that I would like to show you.

This is a line right now of people to fill up some containers with gas so that they can keep generators going for a couple of hours a day so that their children can read, so that they can wash themselves, so they can find out what is going on in the outside world. People can listen to a radio to find out what is not being said about them by others.

Here is another home in the Virgin Islands. This is the kind of destruction that took place on the islands that I represent, the islands that are my home. This is all of St. John. Our transportation system between the islands has been completely obliterated. This is a ferry that was used between St. Thomas and St. John to bring goods, to bring people between those islands. The islands of St. John, Cruz Bay, Chocolate Hole, and Coral Bay now feel cut off, left out, because the ferry system has been down for many weeks.

Look at this. This is what is happening in the Virgin Islands right now. This is the main street in Christiansted. If you look over here, this is the government house, and this is what our roads look like after the hurricane. You can see that this roof is actually a part of the roof over here that has completely been sheared off by Hurricane Maria and strewn across the street. Lines are down and poles are down.

This is a commercial business on the island of St. Croix, a business that will take months, if not a year, at least, to recover if FEMA moves quickly on supporting a small business loan so that they can have the support that they need to be able to do that.

These are the things that you don't see on the news that the people of the Virgin Islands are dealing with right now. What is our greatest asset—and has been for some years after our oil refinery was closed, after this Congress in 2004 changed the rules for the American JOBS Act that took away many of our knowledge-based businesses, our financial services sector—is we have had to rely on tourism.

And this is a hotel room in one of our major hotels. This is what the destruction of the hurricanes look like in the

Virgin Islands right now. This is a hotel room that will not be available for the coming months for the people of the Virgin Islands to be able to sustain themselves with employment.

What I am showing you now was, at one point, two homes, two homeowners' families. You can see the two houses look literally as if a hurricane just came across them and smashed them with a fist from the top. You can barely make out what was once in these homes. These homes no longer exist. These people have no homes.

There is no temporary shelter designation right now. People are living in shelters in some of the few schools that are still intact, which means: Where are our children going to go to school?

Many of our schools have also been destroyed. What will happen to the children of the Virgin Islands? What will happen to us all?

Here is what some of the roads look like when we talk about the utility system and the need—or why we are in the dark in the Virgin Islands right now.

This is a major road. Can you imagine having this next to your house? Can you imagine this amount of transponders, transformers, in front of your home?

This is why most of the Virgin Islands are in the dark right now. This is what is happening on these islands.

This is someone's home. This is our industry. This is tourism right now in the Virgin Islands. This is a hotel room in one of our major resorts. Places known over the world—Caneel Bay on St. John—are gone, are obliterated, will be no more for 2 or 3 years.

What are the people of the Virgin Islands supposed to do? Are we asking for much?

We are asking for support. We fight in your wars. We begged when we became part of the United States to be part of the draft because we want to take on the responsibility of American citizenship. But under the Constitution, it is this Congress, Mr. Speaker, which has responsibility for the territories: Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas. And I have to tell you that it has been a poor job that you have been doing of that responsibility thus far.

We get the short shrift in Federal funding in formulas. Let's not talk about the Affordable Care Act. We don't even have an exchange to have been upset that we lost an exchange. That was never given to us. The Virgin Islands, with 30 percent of the children living in poverty, still don't get the disproportionate share for hospitals that the rest of the United States get.

Why?

I can't get a straight answer about why we shouldn't have it, but we don't. Neither do the smaller island territories.

This is what we are left with. And we are asking you for your support. I am asking you for their support. I am beg-

ging for support for the people that I represent, because many Virgin Islanders are not going to beg you for support. That is not in them, that is not who they are. The biggest phrase that people have right now when I go around the islands after Irma and after Maria—both Category 5 when they struck the U.S. Virgin Islands—and I ask people, "How did you make out?"—that is now our new greeting for one another: "So good to see you. How did you make out?" And people's response is continually: "Thank God I have life. I am blessed I have life."

And when you have to press them to ask them, "What happened to your home," then they will just shake their head, "It is no more. My home is no more. But thank God I have life. I am good. We are good."

That is the kind of people who are the people of the Virgin Islands. So they are not going to beg this Congress for support. I am going to beg for them, because you haven't been doing it out of your own volition or what you know is right to do. You haven't done it thus far. What is happening in Puerto Rico is happening in the Virgin Islands right now.

As the sole representative here in Congress representing the Virgin Islands, I will continue the work that I have been doing in support of the islands' overall recovery efforts, including facilitating generators and security for local grocery stores, businesses so Virgin Islanders can get fresh food and goods, working with local shipping companies to clear the ports and bring commerce and relief packages to the islands, coordinating with housing support for the Red Cross and local shelters, as well as rebuilding efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Additionally, I will continue to update my residents and businesses around the ongoing efforts to make sure that the U.S. Virgin Islands continue to receive the attention and support they need during these difficult times.

□ 2100

While the devastation of this hurricane season has been felt in many parts of our country, it is imperative that we make sure our Virgin Islands continue to be remembered and supported as we begin the long and arduous process of our recovery. We are hopeful. Virgin Islands' motto is "United in Pride and Hope." That is who we are.

I want to thank the Virgin Islanders who are living in the mainland because they, through their efforts, have bridged the gap. Our office gets calls continually from Virgin Islands associations in places like Houston, Atlanta, New York, Tampa, Orlando, Miami, good Virgin Islanders like Tim Duncan, who, through his own efforts, brought planeloads of support to the people of the Virgin Islands because we want to take care ourselves. We don't want to ask for your support. But it is your responsibility, Mr. Speaker, it is

the responsibility of this Congress to ensure that that is done.

I think back on, as a child, hearing stories about Casper Holstein. Many of you may not know the name, but many of you may know him from gangster movies, discussions about New York at the turn of the 20th century. He was a Virgin Islander who created something that everybody calls the numbers system in New York.

After a hurricane and a tsunami in the Virgin Islands, he, of his own pocket, reached in, commissioned a ship, and sent that ship filled with goods for his fellow Virgin Islanders back home.

That is what is happening now because we can't always count on the Federal Government to do what is right by us. We have to count on ourselves. But I am going to make sure, and I will fight continually with those colleagues on either side of the aisle, whomever is willing to, to support the people of the Virgin Islands, to ensure that their efforts are not in vain.

Let me give you a statistic when I talk about veterans and us willing to fight. In the last five conflicts, Virgin Islanders have paid the ultimate price, have greater casualties, three times the national average per capita. We send our sons and daughters on the regular to fight our wars. That is not a duty that we shirk from.

Are you shirking from your duty to us, of your responsibility to us?

I understand, as I have said, FEMA is on the ground, but there are children who are not getting water. There are old people who are eating MREs that others have brought back to them. Is that what should be happening?

Not everybody can get to a distribution center. Not everybody can carry packs of water on their shoulders, on their heads, on their back a mile, whatever it is, to get back to their home because, as crazy as it sounds in this day and age, not everybody owns a car, not everybody can do that. So this Congress has got to figure out a way.

I know that Ranking Member CUMMINGS and I issued a request on September 29 for my good friend—and he is my friend, TREY GOWDY, chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee—to express our extremely grave concerns about the dire status of recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, requesting that the committee hold an emergency hearing this week with officials from the Department of Defense, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, as well as from the White House.

The committee this week, I know, has no hearings, no business meeting, no activity scheduled for the entire week, and this issue is in desperate need of rapid and robust oversight. Millions of American citizens residing in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are facing massive calamities, widespread disease and death, and we need to help them now.

Lieutenant General Russel Honore, who commanded Joint Task Force

Katrina, recently warned the administration's response to this humanitarian crisis is replaying a scene from Katrina. Admiral Paul Zukunft, the Coast Guard Commandant, warned this week that the victims feel betrayed, they feel isolated, and they are probably getting a sense of betrayal of "where is the cavalry?" Everybody else is seeing what other individuals in Puerto Rico have said and their concern for what is happening.

Now, I want my colleagues to know, I am not necessarily saying that it is the Federal Government's fault. If it is the fault of local government, then shame on them and let's expose that for what it is, because all I am concerned about is the welfare of the people of the Virgin Islands, not protecting local government, not protecting bureaucracy, whether it be at the Federal level or at the local level.

Let's have this hearing. Let's get that information out.

The fact that there is no functioning hospital in the Virgin Islands should scare the heck out of us. I was in the hospital at Juan Luis on Wednesday and watched doctors and others creating lists of people, how to get them off the island, how to get our disproportionate amount of dialysis patients off the island, how they were going to deal with those who have shunts, heart disease patients in the coming weeks with one makeshift operating room that they were working out of.

How were they going to do that? How were they going to operate out of a tent that the Army was setting up when we still have a month and a half of hurricane season in the Virgin Islands, in the Caribbean? We are not going to be able to continually ship people off the island, fix them up, triage them, and get them off.

Our labor and delivery: What if there is a child with special needs when they are born? What about neonatal services, if that is needed, for a child that is born during this time? God help us. And if you don't act, God help you in this time of need of your fellow Americans.

I want to thank those Members who have reached out to me and who have expressed their desire to support and help us. Thank you. I am calling on you now for that help to make sure that the people of the Virgin Islands do not continually feel forgotten.

I want to thank House Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, who recently issued a statement calling for the swift and immediate financial commitment to help rebuild the Virgin Islands.

I want to thank my Republican colleague, JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. She and I have been continually texting. I remember texting with her through Maria as she and her brother were holding the door of their home in Puerto Rico, trying to ensure that Maria did not get in that house. Thank you for your support. Thank you for your sisterhood as we both go

through this, and how ever you need me, I am there for you.

Republicans must join Democrats; Democrats must join Republicans in Congress to address the needs of the communities in crisis by swiftly passing a robust relief package that provides assistance not only today, but throughout the long road to recovery. This is our chance in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to show American might, to show American technology, to show American strength.

President Trump, you have complained about the other islands not wanting to support us when we go to the United Nations or the Organization of American States against places like Venezuela or Cuba or China. Show that they can vote with us because Americans do what they are supposed to do for the islands that they have responsibility over.

How are they going to trust us if we can't even take care of what belongs to us?

Our fellow Americans in the Virgin Islands deserve to know that their government will be there for them without question or hesitation.

I want to thank the country of Denmark, our previous owner. Many of you know that the Virgin Islands have had seven flags that have been flown over those islands. We are a very valuable place. We are geographically situated in the mouth of the Caribbean Basin to support the United States. That was why we were purchased in 1970.

But we have maintained close ties with Denmark, and I want to thank the Ambassador and the Prime Minister, who reached out and said that they wanted to support the territory and submitted the request of the Danish Government to our own U.S. Government to bring their own additional emergency management agency to the Virgin Islands in support of ongoing efforts in areas such as healthcare, water purification systems, and experts, command control support, logistics for clearing, and security support. Thank you for your continued commitment to us.

Let that not be the only commitment that we have. I know that the Federal Government, the executive branch, is doing its part. Let this Congress do its part. Let this Congress show, in this time of crisis, that it can rise above partisanship and support the islands of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Let those 3.6 million Americans living in those territories—more than many States in this country—know that they have the full support of this Congress, of the American people, that they are not just a sound bite, that they are not just a rum and Coke and a pina colada when you decide that you want to get away from where you live, that we mean more than that to you, that we are, indeed, full citizens in this American experience, in this democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season was among one of the most active hurricane seasons on record. Four major hurricanes—Harvey, Irma, Jose, and Maria—left terrible devastation in their wakes as the United States and its surrounding neighbors were hit with historically catastrophic storms. As we know far too well, these storms caused billions of dollars in damage across Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and other areas in the region. Much like Hurricane Katrina, the effects of this devastation will be felt for decades.

The frequency and intensity of these storms continue to be an ongoing issue for our country, and it is a problem that is only further exacerbated by global warming. Warmer oceans and extra heat in the atmosphere caused by climate change provide even more fuel for weather systems. Studies are already demonstrating that storms are intensifying significantly faster today than they did 25 years ago. Additional water vapor in the atmosphere is also leading to extreme precipitation. In fact, Hurricane Harvey brought more than 50 inches of rainfall to the Texas Gulf Coast, representing the greatest accumulation of rainfall ever recovered in the contiguous United States from a single tropical storm.

As the costs of natural disasters continue to increase, we need to be cognizant of the impact of these costs on communities all across the United States—particularly communities of color or other areas where our most vulnerable populations reside. Federal disaster response needs to be fair and equitable across the board. Communities of color suffer greatly from natural disasters as many are left without housing or jobs to return to after the storm. Low income individuals and minorities suffer even greater when these events occur, making a strong and equitable federal response that much more important.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be looking at what we can do as Americans to support our fellow citizens and the steps that we can take to build more resilient infrastructure in the wake of such devastating natural disasters. Each and every American shares in the responsibility to face these natural disasters together as one nation, and we cannot afford to ignore entire segments of the population in the wake of these disasters.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus in drawing attention to this year's catastrophic hurricane season that has severely impacted the Texas, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico this Hurricane Season.

The biggest challenge for residents of the 18th Congressional District is accessing the assistance that is available to them.

From getting rooms in hotels for those displaced by flood waters to finding Disaster Assistance Centers that are accessible—when so many cars were damaged by Hurricane Harvey flood waters.

This past Saturday, I joined with representatives from FEMA to provide critical information to Houstonians attempting to recover from the catastrophe of Hurricane Harvey.

Many of them are still waiting for home inspections and need answers regarding the appeals process and how best to utilize Home Inspection Teams.

I am calling on FEMA to create a new app to provide homeowners with instant status updates on the inspection process," said Congresswoman Jackson Lee. "This app should speed up the process of scheduling FEMA inspectors for a home visit if your home has not been inspected in more than 10 days.

This will help the many who are struggling to get their lives back in order.

This week, FEMA announced the creation of a new housing program under the Direct Housing Assistance Program, which allows FEMA disaster relief funding to go to individual homeowners or to local governments to provide housing. To be considered for this program, people must first register with FEMA at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

Local government immediate disaster assistance housing options are as follows:

1. Multi-Family Lease and Repair:

Direct assistance to repair or improve existing multifamily housing such as apartments in order to provide more housing for survivors.

Properties must be three or more units, with each unit providing complete living facilities for cooking, eating, and sanitation. Hotels, motels, and extended stay hotels are not eligible at this time.

2. Direct Leasing:

Direct Leasing: Enables local governments to lease a property that typically would not be available to the public, such as corporate lodging.

Local government enters into the lease agreement on behalf of individuals or households. Various types of housing properties may be eligible.

Manufactured Housing Options (Mobile Homes and Recreational Vehicles):

Direct housing places manufactured housing units on private land or commercial pads.

Local permitting may apply.

There are conditions to receiving housing assistance, but no assistance will be available if an application to FEMA is not made.

It is problematic for constituents from the 18th Congressional District, when I know that 81,950 FEMA applicants have been rejected.

I know that tens of thousands are still displaced with over a 1 million cars having been destroyed by flood water it is difficult to get to the Disaster Recovery Centers.

I continue to work to get more Disaster Recovery Centers opened before the October 24, 2017 deadline to make sure that FEMA resources are as accessible as possible.

We know that site for housing must be suitable.

There will be Hauling and installation included only for those people who have applied for FEMA assistance and have been approved to receive assistance.

An inspection of the site to determine suitability will be scheduled.

Partial Repair and Essential Power for Sheltering (PREPS):

PREPS provides minor repairs to homes in locations with limited housing options.

For eligible properties that have incurred limited damage displacing individuals from their homes.

PREPS provides basic, emergency home repairs—not to include finish work.

3. Direct Assistance for Limited Home Repair:

Program provides partial repairs to homes with significant damages.

Program can include partial repairs to a damaged home where alternative housing is not available or is not cost-effective.

FEMA will determine eligibility for permanent housing construction on a case-by-case basis.

All other forms of housing assistance must be exhausted before the program can be considered.

Some Hurricane Harvey survivors are getting an extension to stay temporarily in hotels while they look for an alternative place to live. October 14 is the new checkout date for the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program, which pays for short-term hotel stays.

All applicants for FEMA recovery assistance have the right to appeal if they are dissatisfied with FEMA's determination letter. All appeals must be in writing and explain the reasons why FEMA's decision may not be correct. The appeal should include any documentation that FEMA requests or that supports your claim. Appeals can be submitted via computer by opening a Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) account at www.disasterassistance.gov.

In addition to all of the needs of family are the needs of small businesses who are going to be instrumental in rebuilding our communities.

I will soon introduce a bill to provide grants of up to \$100 thousand to qualified small business owners to help them with Hurricane Recovery.

I thank my Colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus for joining in this Special Order and I look forward to our efforts to meet the needs of people who are impacted by this hurricane Season.

I would also like to include in the RECORD an article from Vox regarding climate change:

[From vox.com, Sept. 28, 2017]

ONE OF THE clearest signs of climate change in hurricanes Maria, Irma, and Harvey was the rain.

Warmer temperatures are increasing the energy and moisture available to hurricanes.

The intensity of Hurricane Maria, which made landfall on Puerto Rico as a Category 4 storm on September 20, was part of why it was so devastating to the island and its weak infrastructure, leaving Puerto Ricans in a humanitarian crisis.

But this year's intense Atlantic storm season had another element tying its biggest events together: a monstrous, and sometimes deadly, amount of rain.

Images of the flooded metropolises of Houston, Jacksonville, and San Juan with overtopped dams, billowing sewage, and flooded homes show that torrential rain can be one of the most devastating consequences of hurricanes, especially in urban areas where concrete makes it harder for water to drain and where people can drown.

Scientists say the extreme rainfall events that feed these floods are on the rise for many parts of the world, and this year's hurricanes fit that trend. In particular, rising temperatures in the ocean and the air alongside booming construction in vulnerable areas are fueling the increased risk from massive deluges.

Of the seven hurricanes this year so far, Harvey, Irma, and Maria stand out not just for the amount of rain they dropped, but for how fast they dished it out.

WHY HURRICANES UNDER WARMER CONDITIONS CAN DUMP SO MUCH RAIN

Downpours go hand in hand with hurricanes, since the cyclones are powered by evaporating and condensing moisture.

Warm ocean waters provide the fuel for hurricanes, and warm air causes the water to evaporate. This moisture-laden air then precipitates as rainfall during a hurricane, dissipating the heat energy from the water.

"Tropical cyclones are very, very good at converging a whole lot of heat in one place at one time," said Kossin.

Air can hold about 7 percent more water for every degree Celsius increase in temperature, Kossin explained.

That means warmer air and warmer water could lead to larger, more intense hurricanes, which in turn lead to more rainfall. (The Saffir-Simpson scale only accounts for windspeed, but precipitation is closely linked to a storm's intensity.) Scientists are studying these links to understand how future storms will respond to these conditions.

"Hurricanes live and die by the amount of rainfall they make out of moisture," said George Huffman, a research meteorologist at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

But where that water lands depends on the speed and the course of the storm, and not all areas are equally vulnerable.

"We know that in particular that [the regions around] Houston, Louisiana, and Florida are prone to some of the most extreme precipitation events in the United States," said Sarah Kapnick, a researcher at NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory. "We do see signs of precipitation extremes increasing in these regions."

It's challenging to make direct comparisons between extreme rainfall events since their weather systems (e.g., hurricanes, thunderstorms) behave differently, so scientists draw on several benchmarks depending on the situation.

These include the peak rate of rainfall, total volume of rain, the three-day average rainfall, and the maximum depth of rainfall. And all of these are separate from flooding, which is governed by local geography and how people use land, in addition to the rates and total amounts of rain.

"There is a difference between a 100-year rain event versus a 100-year flood event," Kossin pointed out.

HARVEY WAS ABLE TO DUMP AN EXTRAORDINARY QUANTITY OF RAIN BECAUSE OF HOW IT HELD STILL OVER HOUSTON

Hurricane Harvey hovered over the Gulf Coast in late August and dumped 33 trillion gallons of water on US soil, according to some estimates, and is now the wettest storm in US history.

"When a storm stalls, that has more to do with the larger scale flow fields it's sitting in," said Kossin. "That was just very, very bad luck."

The total volume of rain is easier to calculate when a storm remains over a fixed area, but it's much harder to suss out when hurricanes remain mobile and dump water over a wide swath of land and ocean.

NASA's satellite measurements reported rainfall rates from Harvey as high as 5.8 inches per hour (meteorologists define "heavy rain" as greater than 0.3 inches per hour), while the National Weather Service showed that a ground-based rain gauge in Nederland, Texas, reported 60.58 inches of rainfall, a new record.

Meteorologists still have to vet this number, but if confirmed, it would best the previous record—52 inches in Hawaii from Hurricane Hiki in 1950—by 8 inches.

The US Geological Survey reports that flooding causes an average of \$6 billion in damages and 140 fatalities each year. And this year was not an average year, with Harvey alone costing upward of \$180 billion and killing more than 75.

The waters from flooding can linger for days, causing injuries, spreading disease, and hampering relief efforts. The majority of Harvey's victims drowned after the storm, while others were delayed from life-saving care. In one case, a woman died from a flesh-eating bacterial infection after falling into the festering Harvey floodwater in her house.

IRMA'S PEAK RAIN WAS OVER CUBA

Hurricane Irma, meanwhile, set a record for its sustained intensity.

"Irma was a complete standout: 185 mph and stayed there for a day and half," Kossin said. "These storms do not stay there that long."

This intensity was matched with a firehose of rain, dumping water at 10.8 inches an hour, reaching depths of 20 inches in Cuba and 15.8 inches in Florida.

The downpour led to flooding from 23 rivers and creeks in Central and North Florida, forcing highways to close. The state reported at least seven deaths from drowning.

In Cuba, Irma's storm surge overtopped the Havana seawall, while unrelenting rain turned the capital's streets into rivers, killing at least 10 people.

MARIA TOOK DIRECT AIM AT PUERTO RICO AND THEN REGAINED STRENGTH

With tropical force winds reaching 230 miles from its center, Hurricane Maria completely engulfed Puerto Rico as it bisected the 100-mile wide island, picking up steam again once it was clear.

Satellite measurements already show that it poured as much as 6.44 inches of rain per hour and has left Puerto Rico shrouded in darkness.

The Cordillera Central mountain range that forms the spine of the island of Puerto Rico acted as a juicer for Hurricane Maria, Huffman explained.

Perhaps the worst blow from Maria was the 150 mph winds that knocked down 80 percent of the island's power transmission lines and 85 percent of its cellphone towers, leaving people in the dark and struggling to contact each other. But the flooding from rainfall has been a hazard too, including threatening to breach Guajataca Dam in the Western part of the island, forcing hundreds to evacuate.

At least 18 fatalities have been reported in Puerto Rico so far, including two police officers who drowned.

THE CLIMATE SIGNAL IN DELUGES LIKE THESE IS EMERGING

No single weather event—even an extreme one—can be "caused" by climate change, as Vox's David Roberts has explained in detail. And when talking about hurricanes, researchers are quite hesitant to even estimate how much climate change is to blame. Huffman said he's not yet sure if this storm season is "unprecedented" in its ferocity.

However, rising average temperatures are definitely an important element of huge storms like Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

Warmer temperatures are driving sea level rise, which is increasing risks from the storm surges that often herald hurricanes.

Increasing heat is also warming up the ocean, and hotter air holds onto more moisture, increasing the available energy for hurricanes.

And independent of cyclones, extreme rainfall events are on the rise.

Kapnick noted that even individual rain storms can be overwhelming, like storm that drenched Baton Rouge last year with 31.39 inches of rain and three times the volume of water of Hurricane Katrina throughout Louisiana in 2005.

As the chart below shows, the amount of rain from a once-in-every-30-years rainstorm like the one that immersed Baton Rouge has gone up due to warming:

"In this region where we have known precipitation extremes, we have been able to detect an increase in precipitation extremes due to a warming climate," Kapnick said.

And scientists are getting better at figuring out when the torrential downpours are coming.

"If you pay attention, we've had a really remarkable series of forecasts," said Huffman. "For Irma, we knew four to five days in advance that there would be a sharp right turn. Twenty years ago, you wouldn't have dreamed of doing that."

"Everything we see is consistent with what we expect climate change to do," Kossin said.

INSTRUMENTS SOMETIMES CAN'T STAND UP TO THE EXTREME WEATHER THEY'RE TRYING TO MEASURE

Huffman explained that researchers aim to combine different instruments to get a robust handle on rainfall.

"The gold standard is rain gauges because they physically collect the rain," said Huffman.

The next option is ground-based radar, which covers a wider swath of the weather than rain gauges, but less directly measures rain.

But take a look at what happened to a weather radar station in Puerto Rico:

This illustrates part of the challenge of attaching numbers to extreme weather events. Many of the systems used to track them are also vulnerable to them, leaving only indirect figures and estimates.

What's more, both rain gauges and ground-based radar have limited ranges, leaving vast stretches of ocean where hurricanes spend most of their existence unmeasured. And when a hurricane does make landfall, gales can knock them down.

"We don't really have anything on the surface [of the ocean] to tell us the details," said Huffman. "When the chips are really down, sometimes satellites are the only choice."

That means the full accounting for the rainfall from Harvey, Irma, and Maria could take months to deliver as meteorologists piece together their models with the measurements they have.

However, scientists are eagerly waiting for the dust to settle so they can confirm their suspicions about the record-breaking storms this year. The American Geophysical Union added a last-minute session for researchers to present their findings on Harvey and Irma at their December meeting.

"There's going to be a tremendous amount of research coming out in the next few months," Kapnick said.

HONORING HELEN SMITH, POW ADVOCATE, ON HER 91ST BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GARRETT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), my colleague.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to speak on behalf of a person I have come to know and love. In fact, the First District of Texas has been blessed to be the home of many remarkable individuals who have gone above and beyond to serve others in Texas and throughout the world.

It is indeed a privilege to honor a woman from Longview, Texas, who has dedicated her life to serving and providing comfort for our Nation's vet-

erans, particularly our prisoners of war. Her name is Helen Smith, and October 5 of this year marks her 91st birthday.

Helen's caring for our Nation's POWs began with her husband, Gordon Smith, a survivor of the Bataan Death March in 1942 and a POW until the end of World War II.

Throughout her long and happy marriage to Gordon, Helen gained a personal understanding of the struggles many of our veterans and former POWs endure; but armed with the knowledge of what our veterans and former POWs face on a daily basis, Helen set out into the world to help as many of our veterans as she possibly could. She spent countless hours in VA facilities ensuring veterans, young and old, got the care they so desperately needed and deserved.

Helen has walked the Halls of Congress advocating for our veterans and former POWs throughout her life. She is a driving force and was behind Public Law 97-37, which improved VA benefit programs for former POWs.

Helen is not slowing down even at her age. At 90, Helen would head over to the Longview Community Based Outpatient Clinic every morning at sunrise. She would make a pot of coffee and spend her day talking to veterans, giving them a sympathetic ear and helping them through the VA process.

It is a distinct privilege to recognize such a remarkable woman, to thank her for her tireless service to our veterans and former POWs, and to wish her a very happy 91st birthday.

Her accomplishments are recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

I do thank my friend from Virginia for yielding.

□ 2115

Mr. GARRETT. Much has been said recently about the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and specifically how in this land of the free we have the prerogative to do as we choose in matters that manifest themselves, as communication that we can speak freely even when that speech is objectionable to some.

And many people who have been fortunate enough to be amongst the 1 in 1,300 high school football seniors to take the field on a Sunday at an NFL stadium have availed themselves of this right that was given to them by people greater than themselves, perhaps who shed their very lifeblood that they might make a decision not to stand for the anthem that embodies the gratitude for that sacrifice.

Brian Tracy once said: "Develop an attitude of gratitude and give thanks for everything that happens to you, knowing that every step forward is a step towards achieving something bigger and better. . . ."

More recently, an individual said: "If you were successful somebody along

the line gave you some help. There was a great teacher somewhere in your life. Somebody helped to create this unbelievable American system that we have that allowed you to thrive."

Later in that speech, President Obama said, "So if you have a business, you didn't build that," someone did it for you. And he was roundly excoriated, but at some level he acknowledged the sacrifice of so many that compels me to stand here today to ask that when the national anthem of the United States of America is played, that you demonstrate some semblance of gratitude for the sacrifice that has been given by untold millions before you that allows you the prerogative not to stand.

And so should you choose not to stand, I support that right. I believe that right is fundamental to what makes us Americans, but I implore you to learn the history of our Nation that allows you the right not to stand, for, to be certain, there are places in the world, North Korea, where choosing not to stand when the anthem is played might lead to a horrible demise.

Gilbert Chesterton once said: "One sees great things from the valley; only small things from the peak." And the French political philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville said: "The greatness of America lies not in her being more enlightened than any other Nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults."

And so when a slaveowner named Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, he talked about how all people were created equal, despite his inherent flaw or flaws, and when the preamble to the Constitution was hammered out, the Founders suggested that we should strive not to be a perfect union but a more perfect union by acknowledging that, in fact, where there are humans in charge, we will never achieve perfection.

Tonight, I ask your indulgence, if you tuned in at home completely by accident, for a moment to learn about how lucky we are, regardless of the circumstance of our birth, compared to our peers across the globe, to have the opportunity to live in this, the greatest Nation in the history of mankind, and how standing for an anthem that honors an imperfect nation that continually strives for perfection is not only the right thing to do, it is the only thing to do if you understand the scope of the sacrifice of those who came before us.

Imperfect people like Thomas Jefferson gave us near perfect documents. And so tonight, as my vehicle to discuss why we should stand for our anthem, I will choose the district that I am honored to have the opportunity to serve, Virginia's Fifth District. I will say, in all humility, that while I am ordinary, the district is great; that the Fifth District of Virginia is, in my humble opinion, without hyperbole, the greatest congressional district in the country. And I will give you ten rea-

sons why I hope the next time the anthem is played you will stand and think with reverence upon those who made sacrifices that gave us the opportunity to live in the greatest land humanity has ever seen.

In 1743, born in the Fifth District of Virginia was this very man, Thomas Jefferson. An imperfect man who had a thirst for knowledge and said, "I cannot live without books," and continually sought to understand what might be perfected as it related to government amongst men, and in the Declaration created a document which was the first message that a fledgling nation held out to the world to say: This is who we are.

And he said, in that document, that all people were created equal; a concept that this Nation did not arrive at in reality by virtue of slavery and things like the failure to grant women suffrage for some 150 years, nearly, later.

However, a charge to work towards a more perfect union, that was contained in the document, the Constitution, overseen by James Madison also of the Fifth District of Virginia.

And so while we were imperfect, we were given the greatest and most noble of goals, and that is to strive to be more perfect.

So the vision of Jefferson outlined in the Declaration and expanded upon James Madison in the Constitution, and later articulated in this town, Washington, D.C., by Dr. King when he said that we should judge individuals based not on the color of their skin but on the content of their character, it was borne in the hearts and minds of imperfect people from the Fifth District of Virginia who gave us near perfect documents.

In 1819, another of Mr. Jefferson's visions came to fruition with the foundation of the University of Virginia, a leading public research university and the source of incredible scholarship on things like human rights and individual liberty and natural law and the freedoms that individuals are bestowed by virtue of the Nation in which we live, again, in the Fifth District of Virginia.

Fast forward to 1865, the end of the bloodiest era in our Nation's history internally, a conflict as we moved towards a more perfect union, in which if you count disease and dysentery and starvation, along with combat deaths, over a million Americans gave their lives as we worked to become a more perfect union. And we know but a small fraction of a percentage of those people's names.

And we know that Abraham Lincoln took a bullet by someone who was not willing to accept that progress meant acknowledging that Jefferson's words were true, as they were later manifest by Dr. King, once again, 53 years ago in August in this city.

Fast forward to 1933 and the 21st Amendment repealing prohibition, Franklin County, Virginia, dubbed the

wettest county in America. And as we watched as jobs left the Fifth District of Virginia and opportunity seemingly left with them, we saw a wellspring of opportunity and economic development in the form, ironically, of wineries and distilleries and breweries. So when Burlington and Broyhill and Bassett and Lane and Dan River Mills left, distilleries and breweries and wineries crept in. It started in Franklin County, Virginia.

Fast forward to 1944, Bedford, Virginia, June 6. The Allied invasion at Normandy, D-day. The Town of Bedford lost more of her sons per capita than any other town in the United States—19 in one day, more than decimating an entire graduating class and removing the best and brightest from that small Virginia locality.

Notably, three other young men from Bedford died later in the Normandy campaign, bringing the total Bedford KIA during Normandy to 22. And ironically, these men died serving in the Blue-Gray 29th Infantry Division, so named because it honored the fact that it brought soldiers from both sides of the Mason-Dixon line together to fight and bleed and die to free foreign women and men whom they had never met.

Fast forward to 1951, Prince Edward County, Virginia, the hamlet of Farmville. Barbara Johns, a high school student, had an uncle who was a scholar, who discussed with her and her family over the dinner table the ideas expanded upon by Jefferson and the Declaration, and suggested that, indeed, all people were created equal. And this manifests itself through Barbara Johns in action. This teenage girl looked at the school that she attended, the Moton High School, and looked across the county to the all-White new high school and understood that if all people were, indeed, created equal, as her uncle had suggested as was written by Jefferson, then it was unfair that court cases like *Plessy v. Ferguson* that any law that said that separate but equal was anything close to a possible theoretical reality must be struck down.

Now, I have passed by other residents of the Fifth District of Virginia. Patrick Henry, for example. John Marshall, for example. But back to Henry. Henry stood before the American Revolution and said: "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death." And from the back of the room someone shouted: Treason. And Patrick Henry responded, "If this be treason, make the most of it," acknowledging that to do something great that he believed in he might need to die.

Barbara Johns did that very same thing on April 23, 1951, when she led a walkout of Moton High School demanding an end to separate but equal segregation in Virginia, thus sparking the civil rights movement in Virginia that also can look to its forbearers and see Booker T. Washington, a civil rights leader amongst the last generation of

African-American leaders born into slavery. His vision began to culminate when Johns led the student walkout in Prince Edward County that led to desegregation at the very risk of her life.

Now, I like to liken Johns to Patrick Henry, both of whom are heroes of mine, as two people who were willing to stand up and do what they thought was right regardless of the fact that it, quite literally, might cost them their lives. They might die. But I tell people when I speak to them, the difference between Patrick Henry and Barbara Johns is Patrick Henry was a 37-year-old attorney trained to speak in front of people, and Barbara Johns was a teenage girl, and this happened in America as we worked to become a more perfect union.

Fast forward to Pittsylvania County, where Deborah Coles, another hero of mine, was born one of eight children to a tobacco sharecropper. Growing up in a Virginia where racism was far too evident and common, Deborah Coles bucked the odds, learned a work ethic from her mother and father, became the first in her family to attend college, attending Virginia State University, and later going on into public education where she was and is an educator and an administrator in the small town where I went to high school and where she had undoubtedly touched the lives of innumerable thousands of students over the decades—finding ways to say yes, finding means to encourage thought, finding ways to stimulate young minds. And she did this despite the ridiculous challenges faced by her forbearers, and she did it here as we worked to become a more perfect union in America.

Fast forward to the 21st century. Servicemembers, not unlike their brethren from Bedford who fell on June 6 at D-day, just a handful of the sacrifice from the Fifth District of VA, 1–435th of our Nation.

Humayun Khan, a graduate of the aforementioned University of Virginia, who, at risk to himself, moved his soldiers away and sought to determine whether or not a vehicle approaching the point where he was working was a threat, and ultimately, in protecting those with whom he served, gave his life wearing the uniform of a nation to which his parents had immigrated.

□ 2130

Sergeant Andrew Crabtree, a Special Forces soldier who served multiple tours defending America in the global war on terror and recently passed to the next life from a cancer deemed to have been service-related.

And Seaman Dakota Rigsby, the son of working class folks from Fluvanna County, Virginia, in the Fifth District, who tragically perished while wearing the uniform of this Nation, defending that which is worth defending, aboard the USS *Fitzgerald*.

Then, moving to today, and reason number 10, although, to be fair, Booker T. Washington, Patrick Henry, and

John Marshall could make this 13 if I counted them separately, and that is the families of Pastor Hassan and Abdumawla, Christians from the Republic of Sudan, who, after about 9 months of work on our part and about 18 months of imprisonment on the part of the two gentlemen I named, have now moved to Buckingham County, Virginia, where they have an opportunity to experience a land where they are free to stand or sit when the anthem is played, where they are free to worship or not worship as they feel compelled, and where no dream is too big.

I would wager that, having lived in a foreign land and not having been amongst those 1 in 25 or 26, roughly, fortunate enough to have been born here in this imperfect land perpetually seeking to be a more perfect Union, I would wager that, when our national anthem is played, these newest residents of Virginia's Fifth Congressional District will choose to stand. I hope, when you think of the sacrifices made by millions who came before us, that you will, too.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNIZING THE RESILIENCE OF FLORIDIANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS AFTER HURRICANE IRMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) until the hour of 10 p.m.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the resilience of my fellow Floridians, to thank our men and women in uniform, including our State and local first responders, and to recognize our State and local leaders for the tremendous aid and direction they gave to all of our fellow Floridians during their response to Hurricane Irma.

We normally think of men and women in uniform as those who defend our country abroad, but they also deserve our recognition and thanks for their service on the homefront as well.

The Florida Army National Guard, the United States Coast Guard, the Navy, and many others aided our State before, during, and after the storm. In fact, I witnessed National Guard units from various States working together with the Florida National Guard to rescue citizens of northeast Florida.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Coast Guard did an incredible job carrying out hundreds of rescues, and I commend U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Zukunft, Captain Wiemers of Port Jacksonville, and all of their men and women who risked their lives to save others during and after the storm.

I also want to recognize all of the first responders, police, and firefighters who responded quickly and saved so many lives. As an example, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, in 1 day, rescued more than 350 of our citizens.

I also want to commend Governor Rick Scott and our State agencies for the advanced planning that they did leading up to Hurricane Irma and the recovery efforts that are still going on.

In northeast Florida, we experienced, historic flooding, levels not seen since 1846. That is the year after Florida became a State.

In St. Johns County, small businesses were flooded and homes literally toppled over into the ocean. Many more still threaten to fall into the ocean, undermined by severe beach erosion.

In Nassau County, here, a week after the storm, areas of the county were still not accessible due to heavy flooding, and shelters were still open.

But throughout all of this, Mr. Speaker, I spoke with many local volunteers who had damage to their own homes but were out helping rescue other families. I even spoke with a retired coastguardsman who traveled to Nassau County from Virginia to serve with the Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, the Florida delegation in this House is now unified to ensure that Floridians receive the Federal support they need to recover from this horrible natural disaster, Hurricane Irma.

I especially want to recognize Senator MARCO RUBIO and Florida Representatives AL LAWSON, NEAL DUNN, TED YOHO, RON DESANTIS, STEPHANIE MURPHY, VAL DEMINGS, and DARREN SOTO for coming to see, firsthand, the damage to our First Coast community.

I also want to thank the congressional leaders from around the country for coming to northeast Florida. Speaker PAUL RYAN, Appropriations Chairman RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN, and Chairman JOHN CARTER all personally toured our damaged communities, leaving us with a promise to do all they can to assist in Florida's recovery. I thank them for the support, and I am grateful for their work to quickly provide emergency aid to help hurting Floridians.

We are all also heartbroken that, now, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are enduring incredibly devastating damage from Hurricane Maria. We believe it is important that we share resources with our neighboring islands.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Port of Jacksonville is ground zero for getting shipments of needed goods to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. In fact, the American Maritime Partnership and the entire U.S. maritime industry are, in fact, first responders in times of emergency like Irma and Maria when they strike Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

I am proud of what the American maritime industry has accomplished. They have been working tirelessly around the clock to get goods to those who are in need. Almost immediately, there were 10,000 containers delivered; 35,000 pounds of cargo, were delivered by TOTE and Crowley of Jacksonville.

And as we know, distribution has been the challenge.

Our prayers go out to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and we are prepared to stand by them as they face the daunting task of rebuilding their communities. We will continue to work together with our State, local, and Federal officials to ensure that Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands can recover and build even stronger than before.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 703 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Social Security Advisory Board to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Ms. Nancy Altman, Bethesda, Maryland.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of delayed flight.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of family illness.

Ms. KAPTUR (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. KIHUEN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 3 on account of work in district relating to tragic shooting in Las Vegas.

Ms. ROSEN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of work in district relating to tragic shooting in Las Vegas.

Mr. SOTO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. HARRIS, on Friday, September 29, 2017.

H.R. 2519. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

H.R. 3823. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to provide disaster tax relief, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2714. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a letter reporting a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); Public Law 110-161, Sec. 1517(b); (121 Stat. 2285); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2715. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Head Start Program (RIN: 0970-AC63) received September 27, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2716. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, "Evaluation of the Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration Project: Report to Congress", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395www note; Public Law 111-148, Sec. 5509(c); (124 Stat. 675); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2717. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2718. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting reports concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2719. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0809; Product Identifier 2017-NM-094-AD; Amendment 39-19030; AD 2017-18-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2720. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0560; Product Identifier 2016-NM-172-AD; Amendment 39-19028; AD 2017-18-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2721. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Direc-

tives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0529; Product Identifier 2016-NM-123-AD; Amendment 39-19044; AD 2017-19-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2722. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Ameri-King Corporation Emergency Locator Transmitters [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6673; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-092-AD; Amendment 39-18978; AD 2017-16-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2723. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0339; Product Identifier 2016-NM-078-AD; Amendment 39-19042; AD 2017-19-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2724. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-8177; Product Identifier 2015-NM-129-AD; Amendment 39-19041; AD 2017-19-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2725. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0533; Product Identifier 2016-NM-156-AD; Amendment 39-19024; AD 2017-18-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2726. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-0451; Product Identifier 2013-NM-253-AD; Amendment 39-19026; AD 2017-18-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2727. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0525; Product Identifier 2016-NM-121-AD; Amendment 39-19033; AD 2017-19-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2728. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0808; Product Identifier 2017-NM-102-AD; Amendment 39-19027; AD 2017-18-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2729. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Corporation Turbohaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0961; Product Identifier 2011-NE-22-AD; Amendment 39-19023; AD 2017-18-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2730. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31153; Amdt. No.: 3764] received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2731. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31152; Amdt. No.: 3763] received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2732. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31151; Amdt. No.: 3762] received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2733. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0308; Product Identifier 2016-SW-083-AD; Amendment 39-19022; AD 2017-18-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2734. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Falls City, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9593; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ACE-12] received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2735. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Arkadelphia, AR [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0182; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ASW-3] received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2736. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; B/E Aerospace Protective Breathing Equipment Part Number 119003-11 and Part Number 119003-21 [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0439; Product Number 2017-CE-010-AD; Amendment 39-19021; AD 2017-18-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2737. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Mason, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0722; Airspace Docket No.: 17-AGL-16] received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2738. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Textron Aviation Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0608; Product Identifier 2017-CE-017-AD; Amendment 39-19020; AD 2017-18-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2739. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Oskaloosa, IA [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0296; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ACE-7] received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2740. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31150; Amdt. No.: 3761] received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2741. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Pauls Valley, OK [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0184; Airspace Docket No.: 17-AWS-5] received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2742. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; West Plains, MO [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0165; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ACE-1] received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2743. A letter from the Program Analyst, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Electric-Powered Vehicles: Electrolyte Spillage and Electrical Shock Protection [Docket No.: NHTSA-2017-0085] (RIN: 2127-AL68) received September 28, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GOWDY: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 2229. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide permanent authority for judicial review of certain Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-337, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. CHENEY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 548. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 36) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-338). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration, H.R. 2229 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 3894. A bill to protect grizzly bear populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):

H.R. 3895. A bill to promote the use of smart technologies and systems in communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Education and the Workforce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr.

PALLONE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 3896. A bill to require certain entities who collect and maintain personal information of individuals to secure such information and to provide notice to such individuals in the case of a breach of security involving such information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BACON (for himself, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. MAST, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. MCSALLY, and Mr. DUNN):

H.R. 3897. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of the Gold Star Installation Access Card to the surviving spouse, dependent children, and other next of kin of a member of the Armed Forces who dies while serving on certain active or reserve duty, to ensure that a remarried surviving spouse with dependent children of the deceased member remains eligible for installation benefits to which the surviving spouse was previously eligible, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HILL, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 3898. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to place conditions on certain accounts at United States financial institutions with respect to North Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HOLDING (for himself, Mr. PITTENGER, and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 3899. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to redefine the eastern and middle judicial districts of North Carolina; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FLORES (for himself and Mr. HULTGREN):

H.R. 3900. A bill to amend section 510 of the Social Security Act regarding a youth empowerment program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself and Mr. SMUCKER):

H.R. 3901. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Challenge Grant Program to promote technological innovation in our Nation's cities; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BISHOP of Michigan (for himself and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 3902. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to small employers providing an eligible automatic contribution arrangement under a retirement savings plan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 3903. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to expand the ability to use testing the waters and confidential draft registration submissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 3904. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe rules that require covered entities to secure sensitive personally identifiable information against a security breach; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EMMER (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota):

H.R. 3905. A bill to require congressional approval of any mineral withdrawal or monument designation involving the National Forest System lands in the State of Minnesota, to provide for the renewal of certain mineral leases in such lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HECK (for himself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 3906. A bill to establish centers of excellence for innovative stormwater control infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. GIANFORTE):

H.R. 3907. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to create a classification that more accurately reflects the vital role of wildland firefighters; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 3908. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to eligible entities to prevent or alleviate community violence by providing education, mentoring, and counseling services to children, adolescents, teachers, families, and community leaders on the principles and practice of non-violence; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 3909. A bill to authorize the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative focusing on peace and nonviolence in global conflict resolution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. NEAL (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan):

H.R. 3910. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make lifetime income and managed account options of defined contribution retirement savings plans portable; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 3911. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 with respect to risk-based examinations of Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 3912. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Move America bonds and Move America credits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H. Res. 549. A resolution supporting the understanding that climate change is real; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEEHAN (for himself, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. DONOVAN):

H. Res. 550. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the need for State legislatures to pass comprehensive sexual assault kit reforms by 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H. Res. 551. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the International Day of Non-Violence; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H. Res. 552. A resolution reaffirming the United States-Liberia partnership, and calling for free, fair, and peaceful elections in Liberia in October 2017; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers

granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 3894.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 3895.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 3896.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 3897.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 3898.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(i.e. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States)

By Mr. HOLDING:

H.R. 3899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article III, Section I, which states "The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish."

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 3900.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, 3—The Congress shall have the power to provide for the general Welfare of the United States . . . and to regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 3901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. BISHOP of Michigan:

H.R. 3902.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Amendment XVI.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 3903.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, providing the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states."

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 3904.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I section 8

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 3905.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause), which confers on Congress the power to make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. HECK:

H.R. 3906.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 3907.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 3908.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 3909.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 3910.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 3911.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 3912.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 36: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. COLE, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BARTON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 57: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 103: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 184: Mr. ESTES of Kansas.

H.R. 247: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 299: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 308: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 354: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 371: Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 472: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 535: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 544: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 564: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 620: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 644: Mr. ZELDIN.

H.R. 669: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 681: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 685: Mr. O'HALLERAN and Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 747: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 757: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 807: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. COMER, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 812: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 820: Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 844: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 846: Mr. HOLDING, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 866: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 909: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 927: Mr. EVANS and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 980: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.

H.R. 997: Mr. BRAT.

H.R. 1017: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 1038: Mr. COHEN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 1078: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. SABLAN, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 1090: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. BERGMAN, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1094: Mr. NADLER and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1148: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1164: Mr. HOLDING and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 1171: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1225: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1251: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1267: Mr. EMMER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1276: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1316: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 1368: Mrs. DEMINGS and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1406: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1450: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 1456: Mr. COSTA and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 1485: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 1498: Mr. ESPAILLAT and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1542: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1550: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 1552: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 1587: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 1612: Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 1651: Mr. DENT, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 1676: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 1681: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1727: Mr. DEFazio and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1738: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1779: Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH.

H.R. 1824: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 1832: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1861: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 1891: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 1896: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 1953: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 1993: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 2059: Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 2089: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2095: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2121: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 2147: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2148: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 2232: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 2285: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 2309: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

H.R. 2321: Mr. LOEBACK and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 2379: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2380: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2401: Mr. COHEN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 2408: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 2418: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2434: Ms. ADAMS and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 2451: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 2465: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 2482: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 2501: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 2505: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 2550: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2556: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2584: Mr. ROYCE of California, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. LEE, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 2591: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H.R. 2599: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2603: Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 2651: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2654: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 2670: Ms. LEE, Mr. MOULTON, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 2705: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 2721: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 2723: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H.R. 2790: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2797: Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 2856: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 2908: Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KIHUEN, and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 2909: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 2938: Mr. DENT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. EVANS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. REED.

H.R. 2973: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. BACON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. POLIS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 3030: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 3034: Mr. RENACCI, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 3042: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3053: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 3139: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 3145: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 3199: Mr. NOLAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3227: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 3273: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

H.R. 3274: Mr. GAETZ, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 3275: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 3285: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3303: Mr. RUSSELL.

H.R. 3304: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 3329: Mrs. NOEM, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. COOK, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 3378: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 3380: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 3394: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3395: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 3441: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, and Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 3449: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 3459: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 3488: Ms. ROSEN.

H.R. 3497: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DENHAM, and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 3529: Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 3530: Mr. TIPTON and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3548: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan and Mr. RUSSELL.

H.R. 3605: Ms. ESTY of Connecticut.

H.R. 3652: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3671: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3679: Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 3692: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 3717: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 3745: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 3758: Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 3770: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. LAM-BORN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. TURNER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr.

DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. BUCK, Mr. QUIGLEY, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RASKIN, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 3784: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 3792: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 3824: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 3832: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 3833: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3840: Mr. CURBELO of Florida and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 3852: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 3857: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. HILL.

H.R. 3858: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 3859: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 3865: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 3866: Mr. ROYCE of California.

H.R. 3876: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MENG, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 3879: Mr. GALLEGRO, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 3887: Ms. GABBARD.

H. J. Res. 48: Mr. LYNCH.

H. Con. Res. 72: Mr. GALLEGRO.

H. Con. Res. 81: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. BASS, Mr. PAL-LONE, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H. Res. 58: Mr. NADLER and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 129: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H. Res. 142: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. HECK, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 257: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. CAR-SON of Indiana.

H. Res. 274: Mr. BEYER.

H. Res. 283: Ms. MOORE.

H. Res. 318: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 359: Mr. KENNEDY.

H. Res. 367: Ms. DELAURO, Ms. HANABUSA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H. Res. 401: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. CHABOT.

H. Res. 464: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H. Res. 517: Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. LEE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H. Res. 528: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. COFFMAN.

H. Res. 529: Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. PANETTA.

H. Res. 535: Mr. KHANNA.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIM- ITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIM- ITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Judiciary in H.R. 36 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.



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No. 157

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, we lift our hearts to You. Lord, please shower Your mercy on our Nation, as we seek to deal with the Las Vegas mass shooting. Please show mercy to the victims and their families. Lord, in spite of this horrific act, give us faith to believe that evil will not ultimately prevail in our world. May this tragedy motivate us to plant and water seeds of peace as we cultivate a greater respect for the laws of seedtime and harvest. Cut in pieces the cords of wickedness that seek to bind us.

Today, guide our Senators and use them as ambassadors of reconciliation in our Nation and world.

Eternal God, although we walk in the midst of trouble, stretch forth Your hands and revive us with Your might.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE LAS VEGAS ATTACK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate now observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Las Vegas attack.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senate will now observe a moment of silence for the victims of the attack in Las Vegas.

(Moment of silence.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The majority leader is recognized.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the news we awoke to this morning was heartbreaking. What happened in Las Vegas is shocking, it is tragic, and for those affected and their families, it is devastating. It is hard to even imagine their pain. I hope they will know that we are praying for them now. I hope they will find strength in the love and kindness of those around them in these hours of such darkness and pain. I hope they will see that our country is standing by their side today.

Many Americans are still in shock. Others have begun to wonder why someone would do something this terrible. Investigators will continue their dedicated work in search of answers, but what is clear now is that this is a moment for national mourning and for prayer.

Just a moment ago, President Trump led the country in observing a moment of silence. As he noted this morning, we are all grateful for the courageous efforts of the first responders. They always put their lives on the line to save others. They do so with a selflessness that reminds us of the inherent courage and mercy that remains possible within each of us—light amidst the dark, hope in times of terrible grief.

The same is true of the national spirit of compassion that shines through our country in the moments when it is needed most. Whether it is lining up to donate blood or signing up to volunteer

their time, our fellow Americans are always there to offer what they can when others are in need.

We thank these Americans and law enforcement and the first responders for everything they have done. We thank them for their efforts that continue now.

We again send our condolences to everyone affected by this terrible tragedy.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Pai nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ajit Varadaraj Pai, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2016.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, there are a number of issues I wish to speak on today, but first I wish to extend my most sincere condolences to the victims of violence in Las Vegas.

What we witnessed last night was a tragedy without precedent. Today, our thoughts are with all those folks who have lost—the families, loved ones, and

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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friends whose lives will never be the same as a result of this shooting.

Our hearts are with all of you, and so are our prayers. We love you. We stand by you today. We ask that God will stand by you always.

REMEMBERING ELDER ROBERT D. HALES

Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Elder Robert D. Hales, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

With his family gathered around his bedside, Elder Hales passed away peacefully yesterday afternoon in between sessions of LDS General Conference. More than a beloved leader, he was a caring family man, a powerful role model, and a close friend whom I will miss dearly. Today, I wish to pay tribute to Elder Hales as we remember a life well-lived.

Elder Hales was born on August 4, 1932, to Rulon and Vera Hales. He grew up on Long Island in a diverse neighborhood, which allowed him to become familiar with a variety of different cultures. Although raised on the east coast, Elder Hales always maintained strong western roots. He would speak fondly of the summers he spent in Utah bailing hay, riding horses, tending sheep, and herding cattle in the mountain pastures. Although Elder Hales would later become an accomplished businessman, he was no stranger to manual labor, and he credited his early days working on the farm as the source of his strong work ethic.

During his teenage years, Elder Hales distinguished himself as a student and excelled as a pitcher for his high school baseball team.

After enrolling at the University of Utah, he returned home to New York for the summer and met Mary Crandall. It was love at first sight. They married a year later in the Salt Lake Temple on June 10, 1953.

Following his graduation from college, Elder Hales joined the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a fighter pilot. His squadron's motto was "Return With Honor." In his own words, "The motto was a constant reminder to us of our determination to return to home base with honor after we had expended all of our efforts to successfully complete every aspect of our mission."

"Return With Honor" would become the credo by which Elder Hales lived his life, expending every effort as a faith leader, father, and friend to better himself, bless others, and build the Kingdom of God.

Yesterday afternoon, after decades of dedicated service as a minister of Jesus Christ, he completed his mortal mission and returned with honor to our heavenly home. The challenge he leaves behind is for all of us to do the same.

To the very end, Elder Hales was a model of selfless service. Even in his later years, beset by illness and old age, he continued to carry out the responsibilities of his apostolic office without hesitation and without com-

plaint. Elder Hales decided when he was still a young man that he would never let anything get in the way of his church service.

Following his career in the Air Force, Elder Hales enrolled at Harvard Business School, where he was called to serve as Elders Quorum president, one of the most demanding leadership positions in the LDS Church. Because of his heavy course load, Elder Hales could have easily declined the calling, but he gladly accepted it. His wife Mary guided him in making this decision. When Elder Hales said he might fail his classes if he agreed to serve as the Elders Quorum president, Mary said:

Bob, I would rather have an active priesthood holder than a man who holds a master's degree from Harvard. We'll do both.

With Mary's unwavering support, Elder Hales served successfully as an Elders Quorum president in addition to earning his MBA. He would later go on to work as a high-level executive at multiple national corporations.

From this formative experience, Bob and Mary learned that God would provide for them as long as they put the gospel first. That is why Elder Hales did not hesitate to leave his business career behind when he was called to serve as a mission president and later as an apostle in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Elder Hales provided a model of servant-leadership for all of us to follow. He was a true disciple of Jesus Christ, putting the welfare of others before self and the Kingdom of God above all. He was gracious and loving, thoughtful and kind. In all things, Elder Hales exemplified humanity and humility, which was the hallmark of his life.

While millions of us grieve his passing, we take peace and comfort in knowing that his service continues on the other side.

I knew him very well, played golf with him, thought he was one of the great men in my life. I am going to pay tribute to him and his family here today in front of the whole United States Senate and the country. He was one of the most worthwhile people I ever met. We are going to miss him.

REFORM OF CRIMINAL INTENT REQUIREMENTS

Mr. President, with the time I have remaining, I wish to address an issue that remains critically important as well—overcriminalization and the need to reform criminal intent requirements in our Federal criminal code.

Like many of my colleagues, I believe Congress has criminalized far too much conduct and has mandated overly harsh penalties for too many crimes. A number of my colleagues have sought to address these problems by cutting prison sentences, altering statutory minimums, or releasing prisoners early for good behavior. But as we seek to reform the criminal justice system, we must be careful not to overlook one of the major roots of the problem: the lack of adequate criminal intent requirements in Federal statutes.

"Mens rea" is a Latin phrase meaning guilty mind. One of the time-honored, fundamental features of our criminal law is that for a person to be found guilty of a crime, he or she must have committed the act with criminal intent or mens rea. In the English common law, this principle was summarized in the idea that the act is not culpable unless the mind is guilty. Mens rea requirements protect individuals who commit an illegal act without knowing that their action was wrong or unlawful.

To give an example, a person who mistakenly retrieves the wrong coat from a coatroom does not become a thief merely because he took something that wasn't his but looked like his. Only if he knows that the coat belongs to someone else does he commit a criminal act.

Unfortunately, many of our current criminal laws and regulations contain inadequate mens rea requirements, and some contain no mens rea requirement at all. This leaves individuals—innocent individuals—subject and vulnerable to prosecution for conduct they believed to be lawful at the time.

In recent years, as Congress and Federal agencies have criminalized more behavior, they have often been vague about mens rea requirements or even silent about mens rea altogether.

In a 2014 Tennessee Law Review article, Michael Cottone investigated how many Federal criminal statutes there are in the U.S. code. Mr. Cottone explained that "tellingly, no exact count of the number of federal statutes that impose criminal sanctions has ever been given." Most scholars agree that there are approximately 5,000 Federal statutes that impose criminal sanctions, but those criminal statutes do not include the nearly 300,000 Federal regulations that also carry criminal penalties.

With so many criminal laws on the books, it is far too easy for Americans to break Federal laws unwittingly, with no understanding whatsoever that their behavior happens to be illegal. For example, did you know it is a Federal crime to write a check for an amount of less than \$1 or that it is a Federal crime to allow a pet to make a noise that frightens wildlife on Federal land? Even more incredibly, did you know it is a Federal crime to keep a pet on a leash that exceeds 6 feet in length on Federal land?

These are only a few examples of unlawful activities that reasonable people could not reasonably be expected to know. What is worse, many of these unlawful activities are punishable by time in prison. This is not only ridiculous, but it is immoral. The lack of adequate mens rea requirements in our Federal criminal code subjects innocent people to unjustified punishment.

To address this issue, I reintroduced the Mens Rea Reform Act of 2017. Today I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Heritage Foundation and the Federalist Society for highlighting the need for mens rea reform

and for supporting my efforts to protect innocent people. They are not the only ones. Anybody who looks at this has to say: Are we going to send people to jail when they didn't know what they were doing was wrong? It makes anybody stop and think: Is that right? Should we do that? Is that fair?

Likewise, I wish to thank Senators RAND PAUL, TED CRUZ, MIKE LEE, and DAVID PERDUE for joining me as co-sponsors on this bill. Our bill sets a default intent requirement of willfulness for all Federal criminal offenses that lack an intent requirement. Additionally, the bill defines willfulness to mean that a person acted with knowledge that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Naturally, our bill does not apply to any offenses that Congress clearly intended to be strict liability offenses. Our proposal has garnered widespread support from a variety of organizations, including the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Koch Industries, the Federal Defenders, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Heritage Foundation—just to name a few.

Importantly, our bill does not remove any crimes from the books, nor does it override any existing mens rea standards written in statute. Moreover, it does not limit Congress's authority to create new criminal offenses, including strict liability offenses.

Mens rea really is a simple issue. Individuals should not be threatened with prison time for accidentally committing a crime or for engaging in an activity they did not know was wrong. If Congress wants to criminalize an activity and does not want to include any sort of criminal intent requirement, Congress should have to specify in statute that it is creating a strict liability offense.

I believe this simple legislative solution will go a long way in reducing harsh sentences for morally innocent offenders. It will also push back against the overcriminalization of innocent behavior. As I have said many times, any consideration of criminal justice reform or sentencing reform is incomplete without reforms to mens rea requirements.

FOREIGN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Mr. President, on a final note, I wish to express my concern about a provision in U.S. law that allows foreign litigants to come into U.S. courts and gain access to documents and other evidence for use in foreign judicial proceedings.

Under current provision, 28 U.S.C. 1782, an American citizen can be subjected to invasive requests by a foreign entity even when the citizen has no ability under the laws of the foreign jurisdiction to obtain similar information from the foreign entity itself. This gives foreign entities an unfair advantage over their U.S. counterparts.

Equally problematic, U.S. persons may be compelled under Federal law to turn over business information or trade

secrets for use in Federal judicial proceedings without any guarantee that such information will be adequately protected in the foreign jurisdiction. This places U.S. businesses at risk and, again, creates an unfair playing field.

Such unfairness and lack of reciprocity is deeply concerning. Our laws should not disadvantage our own citizens and companies. Rather, we should ensure a level playing field.

In the coming weeks, I will be introducing legislation to do just that. These are important bills, and these are important ideas. I appreciate having this time to be able to express them for the country at large.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, before my planned remarks on the Federal Communications Commission, I want to say a few words about the awful events that happened in Las Vegas. Our hearts are with the families affected by the tragedy and with the city of Las Vegas, and we do send them our best wishes and our prayers. But we can do more than send our thoughts and prayers to the grieving. We can do more than thank the first responders. We can do more than lower the flag to half mast.

We can take a stand against gun violence by passing commonsense gun safety laws. Otherwise, this becomes a ritual of mass murder, mourning, and moving on. Let's stop this awful ritual. Let's stop the violence. Let's do something about it.

Mr. President, I wish to talk about the nomination of Chairman Ajit Pai to lead the Federal Communications Commission for another 5 years. When it comes to Chairman Pai, personally and professionally, I want to say that I believe in his integrity as a public servant, and I believe he is smart and qualified. But the FCC is supposed to create competition and protect consumers, and Chairman Pai isn't doing that.

First, Chairman Pai's FCC is trying to get rid of net neutrality. Net neutrality is a Federal rule that says ISPs—internet service providers—must treat all content equally. They can't discriminate by making certain kinds of content slower, charging more for other kinds of content, or blocking some content altogether.

That is the basic premise of the internet. Once you pay for your broadband internet access and then you jump on a browser, everything comes down to the same speeds. It is so foundational to the way we use the internet that it is actually hard to describe a future without net neutrality,

but it could be that you pay your ISP, and certain websites download fast.

Certain websites are almost impossible to find. For certain websites, you have to pay a premium just to be able to capture their content. Forget what you may have to pay Hulu, Netflix, and others. The ISP will essentially control your access to the internet. That is why net neutrality was so important. It is not that, in that moment, things were necessarily undermining the current internet but that, without a firm rule, these companies may have incentives to change the internet as we know it.

When Chairman Pai announced that the FCC would review the rules on net neutrality, he said: "This is a fight we intend to wage, and it is a fight that we are going to win." But that is not how the FCC is supposed to work. This is a quasi-judicial agency. They are supposed to propose a rule, allow the public to weigh in, and then the agency considers the comments before making a decision. Chairman Pai had made it clear from the beginning that he had already made up his mind. Even though there were 22 million individual comments from American citizens about what we should do with the free and open internet, he had decided in advance of that.

Unfortunately, this is part of a pattern. Right after Congress took away the FCC's ability to protect people's privacy online, he wrote an op-ed that essentially read that this is good news. It is pretty unusual to have a chairman of a quasi-judicial body weigh in on something that the legislative branch does or to completely disregard the process for public input. Chairman Pai has not yet demonstrated a willingness to stray from the party line.

One of the things I like about him is that I know that he has a big brain. We have talked policy, and when we have had private conversations, I have seen that he has liked the engagement, that he likes the job, and that he likes public service. The challenge is that there has been no instance in which he has done anything that was other than predictably Republican. That is OK for now, as it has been a relatively short tenure, but what we need in an FCC Chairman is someone who takes his own views and the facts, as the record becomes established, and makes up his own mind. He is not a Republican while he is on the FCC. His job is to apply the facts and his own judgment.

During the confirmation hearing, I asked him about the President of the United States calling the media the "enemy of the state." He would not say one way or another what he thought of those comments or how he would guide the FCC based on those comments. At some point, he needs to demonstrate some independence from his party and from the President.

With this vote, the Senate has a chance to say that the person who leads the FCC should understand, at a bare minimum, how to run a quasi-judicial agency in a nonpartisan fashion,

that he or she should value public input, and that he or she should not simply go along with what the party is asking and implement it no matter how it stacks up against the statute.

Here is another example. Earlier this year, Chairman Pai rolled back a rule in order to allow local TV stations to be bought up without any limits by one single company. This decision seemed to be for the benefit of one company, the Sinclair Broadcast Group, which just happens to be a company with strong conservative leanings. Sinclair is already the largest owner of local broadcasting stations in the United States, but now it is trying to buy another company, Tribune Media, which would expand Sinclair's reach into 72 percent of the households.

For decades, both Congress and the FCC have taken steps to protect local broadcasting because it has benefited the public interest. So, under normal circumstances, Sinclair would not be able to buy up these other stations, but Chairman Pai has changed the rules so that this company will have even more power and reach. The secondary beneficiary of this change will be the Republican Party, because Sinclair has a decades-long history of pressuring its local stations to broadcast certain news that helps the Republican cause.

We need an independent Chairman at the helm of the FCC. We need someone who will make decisions based on statute, not based on political affiliation. That is why I will vote no on Mr. Pai's nomination, but I hope that I will be proven wrong.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THANKING THE SENATOR FROM HAWAII

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me thank my friend from Hawaii for his words.

I will make a statement for the record with regard to Mr. Pai, as I agree with Senator SCHATZ' vote and will be voting no, but I want to first speak about the horrible situation in Las Vegas.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mr. President, there are precious few words for days like this. Last night, as everyone now knows, at a concert in Las Vegas, NV, a gunman opened fire on a crowd of 22,000, killing at least 58 and sending hundreds more to the hospital. It was the deadliest mass shooting in the history of our country.

Our collective hearts, so hardened now by the absurd frequency of these mass shootings, are broken once again. We mourn for the families of the fallen, and we pray with the families of the wounded. We have the deepest gratitude for every first responder, cop, and firefighter who rushed to the scene, as their heroism in the moment of this national tragedy has been an inspiration. Yet today we are filled with shock and horror, with sadness and rage.

The horrific massacre was perpetrated by an American on his fellow Americans and the visitors from every corner of the world, who are the very lifeblood of Las Vegas. We are left with many questions, the answers to which we will seek in the coming days and weeks.

How did this monster acquire the arsenal that he used to rain down death on a crowd of innocents? Were these guns purchased and compiled legally? What was this person's perverted motive? Was there any history of mental health issues?

What circumstances could lead a man to commit such violence upon his fellow human beings—complete strangers—what twisted reasoning, what demented logic?

There is much more that we do not know than what we do know. Some of the questions that we have today will not have clear answers. Others are, perhaps, beyond our fathoming. Yet some will have answers, and we will have to reckon with the fact that this man was able to assemble an arsenal of military-grade weapons.

As much as we might hope to, we cannot banish evil from the Earth. Congress cannot do that, and the President cannot do that. What Congress can do and what Congress must do is to pass laws that keep our citizens safe, and that starts with laws that help prevent guns, especially the most dangerous guns, from falling into the wrong hands.

We will take care of the injured—their bodies and their hearts—and nurse them back to health. We will mourn those lost with all of our collective love and support. We will bind up this new national wound. Then, we will aggressively ferret out the facts, and based on that reality, we will confront—we must confront—the deeply troubling issues that have been raised by this atrocity.

PUERTO RICO AND U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
RECOVERY EFFORT

Mr. President, our friends and relatives and fellow Americans in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands should know that, even while we mourn and process the incomprehensible events in Las Vegas, we remain laser-focused on the needs of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and we will continue our advocacy for a more comprehensive, more sure-footed, and better coordinated response to their crisis.

Mr. President, shortly the Senate will vote on the nominee to be Chairman of the FCC, Mr. Ajit Pai.

I cannot support this nominee for the office of Chairman. The FCC is tasked with the critical role of protecting consumers and promoting innovation in the telecommunications and technological fields that are becoming more and more integral to our day-to-day lives. However, over his time at the FCC and particularly in his tenure as Chairman so far, Mr. Pai has established a clear record of favoring big corporations at the expense of con-

sumers, innovators, and small businesses.

He supported congressional attempts to reverse the FCC's 2016 broadband privacy rule, which would have prevented big cable and internet companies from profiting off of personal internet data. Now, internet service providers no longer have to obtain consumer consent before they sell or share sensitive personal data.

Most disturbingly, Chairman Pai is currently attempting to dismantle the open internet order, the net neutrality rules under which millions of consumers currently have access to a free and open internet. Net neutrality has had a huge impact on everyone who uses the internet—on communities of color, on small businesses, on schools, on civic engagement, and on our economy.

Net neutrality is not the only issue where I disagree with Chairman Pai's agenda. In his first 2 weeks on the job, Chairman Pai stopped 9 companies from providing discounted high-speed internet to low-income individuals, and he jammed through nearly a dozen industry-backed actions, including some to begin curtailing net neutrality. The most alarming part: these clandestine moves to clip the public's fundamental right to a free and open internet were done without seeking public comment first.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Chairman Pai would be willing to further undermine the FCC's protection of net neutrality, notwithstanding the views of the nearly 22 million American citizens who have commented in opposition to his net neutrality proposal.

The open internet order is working well as it is and should remain undisturbed. Mr. Pai, however, seems bent on rolling back the open internet on behalf of a few corporate friends, rather than serving the American consumer and the American economy by keeping the current protections in place.

For these reasons, I feel very strongly that I must oppose his nomination; I cannot support this agenda, which I believe imperils consumers and the internet itself.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you very much.

Today, I am here to speak on behalf of a good friend and an exceptional public servant, Chairman Ajit Pai of the Federal Communications Commission.

I have admired his work throughout his service within the Commission, which dates back to 2007, when he was in the Office of General Counsel. Over

time, he was promoted to become the Deputy General Counsel of the Federal Communications Commission. In 2012, by voice vote, he was confirmed by the Senate to serve as a Commissioner, and he has continued to embody integrity, honesty, and dedication in this role, something we would expect from a Kansan.

As only the second Kansan ever to be nominated to serve on the Federal Communications Commission—the first being Bob Wells of Garden City, KS, who served from 1969 to 1971—Ajit Pai has proven himself to be a capable and talented leader and one of the smartest people whom I have ever met, especially when it comes to public policy.

I have worked with him and his staff throughout my time on the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and have traveled with him throughout our home State. My getting to know him on a personal level has really been a delight, something that has been a highlight of my time while serving in the Senate. He is a native of Parsons, KS, which is a small town in the southeast corner of our State, and he brings with him an understanding of the challenges that face rural America. He understands the importance of access to high-speed broadband and wireless connectivity, and I believe that his roots as a small town Kansas kid make him exceptionally qualified to advocate for rural America.

Ajit came to Wichita just this past week to explore ideas and explain policy opportunities to close the digital divide within local broadband providers that work in Kansas communities I serve. The lack of broadband connectivity in parts of rural Kansas has lasting economic, educational, and public health impacts, and Ajit Pai has prioritized incentive-based solutions like the Connect America Fund and Mobility Fund to close this divide in a fiscally responsible and competitively driven way.

Outside of supporting high-speed broadband build-out to unserved or underserved areas, Ajit created the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee to promote broadband deployment across America, including removing regulatory burdens and barriers and improving permitting and the right-of-way process through regulatory reform.

While in Kansas, he was also able to see the great work that was being done to implement the Next Generation 9-1-1 technology in our home State. As we know, improving these communications systems is absolutely necessary to ensure adequate emergency services to rural and urban Americans alike, and we see that today and over the last several months with the disasters and tragedies that have occurred in our country.

Ajit has also proven himself to be a leader who is committed to free markets, clearly understanding that regu-

lations should be balanced with pro-growth economic principles that do not unduly harm employers or stifle innovation. To this end, Ajit Pai announced his intentions to stand up a new Office of Economics and Data within the FCC to provide economic analysis of the policies and functions of the agency. We are looking for thoughtful, data-backed input to the agency that should lead to market-driven policy decisions the Commission can then hang their hat on.

Critical issues before the FCC today require this type of expertise; things such as efficient and effective broadband deployment, quality spectrum management that schools and libraries desperately need, as well as hospitals that also desperately need this spectrum, and fostering innovation just in the general sense. If we want a growing economy with more jobs, better jobs, higher paying jobs, we need access to the latest technologies across the country.

As the currently appointed Chair of the FCC, Ajit has improved openness and transparency within the Commission, eliminated onerous and duplicative regulations holding up that innovation, and has protected consumers from illegal and fraudulent robocalls. One recent decision under his leadership that has received so much attention from consumer advocates, industry representatives, and policy academics is the FCC order Restoring Internet Freedom Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

Under Chairman Pai's leadership, the Commission has collected tens of millions of comments regarding the agency's proposal to roll back the 2015 open internet order and has extended the deadline so more interested parties can be heard. This input collection, coupled with fundamentally improving the rulemaking processes, has increased the Commission's culture of openness and transparency, something I certainly support and would continue to encourage.

I believe the Federal Government must ensure a fair and open internet that is not blocked or slowed. I do not want outdated utility-style regulations to the internet that were established for telephone companies in the 1930s. Instead of leaving this important regulatory framework open to interpretation and change with every new administration, Congress—the U.S. Senate—and our Commerce Committee should and must craft bipartisan legislation that preserves the fair and open internet.

Chairman Pai has taken thoughtful steps toward a long-term solution by seeking to eliminate the harmful 2015 regulations hindering broadband deployment and harming an innovative internet ecosystem.

Ajit Pai has repeatedly proven himself to be a public servant of the highest caliber, with strong integrity and character. I am proud to recommend his swift confirmation to the Federal

Communications Commission and call on my colleagues to support his nomination. Ajit Pai is an intelligent, articulate public servant who has the character and integrity that is required at the Federal Communications Commission. I support his nomination and ask my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. President, as I noted last week, the nominee before us, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, has led a fascinating life with two defining features: hard work and success.

He understands communications policy from just about every angle—no wonder, given his deep and impressive resume.

He comprehends the needs of rural communities in states like mine, a product of his own rural upbringing.

He has dedicated himself to issues like advocating for Americans' First Amendment rights and bringing more openness and more accountability to the FCC, an agency that, too often, has earned a reputation for secrecy.

Chairman Pai is just the kind of person we need over at the FCC.

I was glad to see the Senate advance his nomination last week.

I look forward to confirming him to a new term later this afternoon.

Mr. DURBIN, Mr. President, I come to the floor today to voice my concern regarding the nomination of Ajit Pai to serve as a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

Many of my colleagues are planning to speak about the threat Mr. Pai poses to a free and open Internet, but what brings me to the floor is a different looming threat to the public interest: the proposed Sinclair Broadcast Group merger with Tribune Media Company. If approved, the Sinclair-Tribune merger would create the Nation's largest television broadcast company in history, reaching over 70 percent of households nationwide. There is reason for concern.

Mr. Pai's track record at the FCC has shown that he will not hesitate to put the needs of industry ahead of the best interests of consumers. Under his leadership as Chairman, the FCC acted to reinstate an outdated loophole known as the UHF discount that would make it easier for companies to get around rules limiting national media ownership. These rules are essential in maintaining the trust Americans have placed in their local broadcasters and ensuring consumers benefit from programming representing diverse viewpoints.

What was Mr. Pai's motivation for putting this loophole back in place? I will just say this: The loophole was reinstated in April, and Sinclair announced its acquisition of Tribune in May.

My concerns about the merger are not solely grounded in Sinclair's practice of mandating its stations distribute its self-produced conservative content, as troubling as that is. Rather it is that no single company should be

able to decide what 72 percent of the country's news looks like. The Sinclair-Tribune merger undermines competition and threatens local broadcasting as a trusted and diverse voice for its viewers in Illinois and across the country.

Because of Mr. Pai's deregulatory campaign and repeated failure to put the best needs of the consumer first, I will oppose his nomination to serve a second term as a Commissioner for the Federal Communications Commission.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in 2015, the Federal Communications Commission, FCC, did something that can be all too rare Washington: It listened to the American people. After a record number of Americans spoke in favor of clear rules to protect a free and open Internet, the FCC voted to adopt strong net neutrality protections that accomplished this goal. These protections, which ensure that innovation and free speech can flourish online, are currently under threat as the FCC now moves to repeal them. On net neutrality and on many other key telecommunications policy issues, Chairman Pai has stood against consumers, startups, and small businesses. Today I choose to stand with them and with millions of Americans who support net neutrality by opposing his reappointment.

Vermonters have been clear that they want strong FCC rules in place to ensure that the Internet remains the ultimate platform for economic opportunity and free expression. These protections are particularly important for small businesses, which compete on the internet's global stage against the largest companies in the world. The Vermont Country Store is a great example of a small company that has taken advantage of the promise of an open Internet. Family-owned with a rich history dating back to 1897, the internet offered new opportunities to extend the company's reach. As fifth generation storekeeper Cabot Orton said when he testified in Vermont about the FCC's effort to craft net neutrality protections in 2014:

We don't want to imagine an America with two Internets: a fast one for giant corporations and a slow one for everybody else. We don't want to imagine being held for ransom by telecom behemoths and cable monopolies just to reach our customers with the same speed and convenience that global conglomerates enjoy . . . A small business website that is no longer protected from giant Internet toll-keepers would have one choice: pay to play. Failing that, a company becomes the proverbial tree falling in the forest with no one there to hear it.

Chairman Pai has shown total disregard for the concerns of businesses like the Vermont Country Store. In proposing to repeal the existing net neutrality protections, he makes no mention of their importance to the small business community. Instead of recognizing the very real impact on small businesses of stripping away these protections, Chairman Pai claims that there are no possible harms these

protections could be designed to prevent.

This is particularly clear when he discusses the current rule banning harmful paid prioritization agreements that would create the type of two-tiered internet small businesses fear. Chairman Pai claims that there was no need for this rule because some large internet service providers, ISPs, said they "had no plans" to engage in this kind of behavior. This is despite the fact that at least one major ISP said outright in its 2014 FCC filing that it wanted the "flexibility" to charge websites for priority access and that, even though it had no plans for these arrangements, they "should be permissible and should be tested."

I introduced legislation to ban pay-to-play deals online before the FCC adopted its rule because of the harm they would cause small businesses like the Vermont Country Store. I find Chairman Pai's failure to understand the importance of a level playing field for small businesses extremely disconcerting.

Not only is Chairman Pai ignoring the small business community by barreling ahead to repeal net neutrality protections, he is also ignoring the clear will of the American people. Over 22 million Americans have submitted comments in the proceeding he started to repeal these critical protections, shattering records at the FCC. Poll after poll has found overwhelming bipartisan support for net neutrality. In Washington, Chairman Pai calls net neutrality protections burdensome and unnecessary. In Vermont, we just call them common sense.

Vermonters also value their privacy rights and want basic protections in place to protect their personal data. In 2016, over Chairman Pai's objections, the FCC put in place important privacy protections to prevent ISPs from selling their sensitive information, including their web browsing history, without their consent. These rules also included basic data security and data breach notification requirements. We have seen how important it is to hold companies to basic data security and breach notification standards in the wake of the total disregard Equifax showed for protecting sensitive consumer information.

Unfortunately, Chairman Pai was a strong supporter of the resolution of disapproval passed by this Congress that permanently repealed the FCC's privacy and data security protections. At a time when the personal information of every single American is under constant threat, Chairman Pai thought it was simply too much to ask for ISPs to take reasonable steps to secure their subscribers data and notify them if a breach occurs.

Chairman Pai's approach to rural broadband, which is one of the most pressing issues for Vermonters, also raises cause for concern. Just recently, he has proposed to effectively lower the speed standard used to measure wheth-

er Americans have access to adequate broadband service. As someone who represents a rural State, ensuring that we accurately measure how many Americans lack this essential service is critical. Under the current standard set by the previous FCC, 39 percent of rural Americans lack access to true high-speed broadband service. In contrast, only 4 percent of urban Americans lack access.

I supported the FCC's decision to set a high minimum broadband speed to use as the baseline for comparing rural and urban areas. All Americans deserve the same quality of broadband service, whether they live in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont or the heart of Kansas City. Rural Americans should not be held to a lower standard simply so that Chairman Pai can rig the numbers to falsely claim that he has closed the digital divide once and for all.

Chairman Pai has shown far too often in his time at the FCC that he will side with Goliath over David and that he will ignore the overwhelming sentiment of the American people. With the fate of the open internet and many other critical telecommunications issues at stake, I must oppose Chairman Pai's nomination.

Mr. MORAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today we mourn the loss of at least 50 lives in Las Vegas, the victims of senseless violence at an outdoor concert near the Mandalay Resort and Casino. The lives of fellow Americans were taken in a barbaric manner that defies all justification, excuse, or even explanation. That these events have become almost commonplace in modern society makes them no less shocking or morally reprehensible.

The date and location—a country music festival on a Sunday afternoon—make the act seem doubly cruel. Thousands of innocent spectators were there from around the country enjoying themselves, with security being the furthest thing from their minds, until the shots rang out.

As news reports have now indicated, the event is one of the deadliest mass shootings in modern U.S. history. It and other forms of violence continue to tear apart the fabric of our country, and the scars left among the victims' families and loved ones will be painful and permanent.

My prayers go out to all those in Nevada who have not slept since yesterday and who are still grappling with the aftermath of the shooting, the families tending to loved ones in hospitals, as well as the first responders and law

enforcement officers who ran toward, not away from, the gunfire and who are now nursing various wounds. Here in Washington, we will continue to monitor the situation. We will continue to keep the fallen in our prayers in the days ahead.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, turning to the legislative business at hand, the last time Congress enacted tax reform was 1986. Back then, I was a State district judge in San Antonio, TX, the Spurs had a bad losing streak, and gasoline was 89 cents a gallon.

A lot has changed since 1986. We have seen parties in Congress win the majority, lose it, and win again. We have seen six Presidents come and go, bringing us to this moment, this year, with the President committed to providing Americans with real tax relief and the promise of a resurgent economy. After countless meetings, hearings, and conversations amongst Members who represent varying and diverse constituents, Republicans in the House and the Senate and the administration have joined together to unveil a unified framework for tax reform.

In the more than 30 years since our Tax Code has become overhauled, it has become the punch line in a bad joke. No one will defend it. Everyone knows it needs to be fixed. Over time, the code has become more complex and is now riddled with deductions, credits, and loopholes advocated by an army of lobbyists and special interests, so much so that the majority of Americans now pay somebody else to prepare their taxes because it is too complex for them to figure it out on their own, but with renewed focus and determination, we are committed to taking this framework and using it to enact real reforms to simplify a Tax Code that has grown so complex over the years, but that is not the main reason.

The main reason we need tax reform is that the Tax Code has become the enemy of a growing, prosperous economy; the enemy of more take-home pay, and the enemy of America's competitiveness in a global economy. It is self-inflicted harm, and we can and must do better.

Our first priority should be to reduce taxes for all American families, not one socioeconomic class or another—everyone. With a simpler, fairer, and more competitive Tax Code, we can raise living standards so people who earn the money can make decisions on how best to spend it themselves—on their children's education, on their home, on a car they need in order to get reliable transportation to get to and from work, or just maybe putting a little bit of money away for retirement.

I think about the newly graduated teacher in Houston's public schools who is worried about stagnant wages, the entrepreneur in Austin with a great business idea who needs investors to succeed, or a single parent in San Antonio who is living paycheck-to-pay-

check. Ultimately, this is about empowering all citizens to pursue the American dream. This is about reducing government's big bite out of our wages each month and about small businesses spending more time growing and creating jobs.

By coming to the aid of hard-working American and Texas families, we will reawaken the sleeping giant that is our economy by incentivizing investment and job creation.

I know these are lofty goals. If it were easy, we would have done it more recently than since 1986. I know some of our colleagues across the aisle and some in the public are already questioning this framework. Some have wasted no time lobbing accusations, but they don't even bother to do their homework first. They are engaging in the same kind of class warfare many have come to love to wage here in Washington, DC, but those tactics are deeply cynical and deeply untrue.

Here is their lie. They say our tax plan cuts taxes for the wealthy and hurts the poor, even though the actual plan hasn't been written yet. Some claim they already know what the bill says, and they don't. That is entirely predictable in this political environment and wholly false. Let me tell you why.

First, we will cut taxes for all American families without shifting the burden from higher income households to lower or middle-income households. To accomplish this, the framework creates a large zero tax bracket by doubling the standard deduction. The first \$12,000 of income for an individual and \$24,000 for a couple would be tax-free.

Let me say it again. If you are a couple who makes \$24,000 or less, you will pay zero Federal income tax, which is effectively a zero tax bracket. Additionally, the proposed individual rates are collapsed into three, at 12 percent, 25 percent, and 35 percent. So instead of seven tax brackets, which we have now for individuals, we will have four, including the zero tax bracket. This framework also enhances the child tax credit. It repeals the death tax that has hurt small businesses and their families; it has broken up family farms and ranches. And it repeals the special interest tax breaks that primarily benefit the wealthy.

The other refrain some critics have already started making is the claim that our tax plan gives big tax cuts to job creators. As I said, in addition to closing the special interest loopholes, nearly everyone will see some sort of benefit, and job creators will take that benefit and invest in their businesses. They will hire more people, and they will improve wages and growth in the economy, from which we will all benefit. So why would our Democratic colleagues oppose that?

Our unified framework is a template that will be used by the tax-writing committees to put the nuts and bolts together for tax reform. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I

look forward to working with Chairman HATCH, Ranking Member WYDEN, as well as colleagues in the House—Ways and Means Chairman KEVIN BRADY, Speaker RYAN, and others—on these ideas. I even look forward to working with our Democratic colleagues if they will join us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Thank you, Madam President, for the recognition.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Today is a day of mourning for Las Vegas and for America. My heart goes out to all those touched by the ruthless and cowardly shooting last night.

One of the victims was Lisa Romero, a secretary at Miyamura High School in Gallup, NM. The students knew her well as Ms. Lisa, and she was adored by everyone at the school. Her loss will be deeply felt. I send my condolences and prayers to her family, as well as her school family, and to everyone in Gallup, NM.

I also want to recognize the true bravery of first responders—the police, the fire fighters, the EMTs—some of whom risked their own lives to save others. There are heroes in America, and we saw them in action last evening.

Las Vegas, NV, and New Mexico share a kinship. Nevada is a sister Western State. Many New Mexicans have family in Las Vegas, and New Mexicans are reeling because of this tragedy. As westerners and as Americans, we must always come together to support the victims, thank our first responders, and focus resources and policy on preventing future massacres.

Madam President, I rise in opposition to the renomination of Mr. Ajit Pai to the Federal Communications Commission.

Mr. Pai, both as FCC Commissioner and now as Chairman, has not been a vigorous watchdog for free speech. He has not put the people's right to information first. In fact, he has put corporate interests first, and he has opposed policies outright that ensure underserved communities have access to essential technology. I strongly oppose his renomination to the Commission.

Let's begin with his responsibility to guard First Amendment rights. President Trump has relentlessly attacked NBC, CBS, ABC, CNN, the New York Times, and the Washington Post. He called these established and esteemed news outlets "fake news." He even called them "the enemy of the people."

Earlier this year, in February, during a Senate Commerce Committee hearing—this was an oversight hearing—I asked Chairman Pai pointblank whether he agreed with the President that these mainstream news organizations were the enemy of the people. He refused to answer, refused to disagree with this patently outrageous and anti-American statement.

His written answers were better, but even then Chairman Pai did not demonstrate that he could stand up to

power and defend First Amendment rights. Democrats on the Commerce Committee sent a letter asking again whether he believed the media were the enemy of the people, and he qualified his answer in the negative by writing that “the President has made clear he was referring to ‘fake news’ [as the enemy of the people].” I wish that were true, but it is not. The President referred to well-respected, mainstream media organizations.

The FCC must unequivocally stand up for the First Amendment, and the Chairman needs to strongly disavow the President’s unfounded attack on the media.

The FCC took a huge step forward in favor of consumers in 2015 when it passed the open internet order. That order, known as the net neutrality order, was codified. The principle underlying net neutrality is simple and fair. It means that internet service providers must treat all internet traffic equally. They cannot block access to particular websites, apps, or services. They can’t give fast lanes or special treatment to websites or apps that pay more or are favored by some companies’ executives.

Consumers benefit because internet service providers can’t “pick winners and losers in the online marketplace for services and ideas.” Those are the words of President Obama.

Our democracy benefits because the internet lowers the barriers to communication—but not if the massive companies that control infrastructure can erect new ones. As a Commissioner, Mr. Pai voted against that pro-consumer measure, and as Trump’s Chairman, he has now moved to dismantle it. The American people are outraged with the Chairman’s move to undo net neutrality. The Commission has received a record 22 million comments in that regulatory proceeding.

Who is against net neutrality? The megaproviders like Comcast and Verizon—Chairman Pai’s old employer—can benefit financially from giving advantage to selected websites. Chairman Pai’s record is that if there is a choice between consumers and big corporations, corporations win.

Let’s look at what the Chairman did recently to allow the biggest broadcast company in America to become even bigger. Congress has put into law a limit on the market share that ultra-high frequency or UHF stations can own, and that limit is 39 percent. The Commission had considered that Sinclair Broadcast Group, the largest broadcast company, holds a 38 percent market share. But Sinclair wants to expand its reach and merge with another big company, Tribune Media. The \$3.9 billion deal would give Sinclair control over 200 more local television stations and expand its market to 72 percent of the television-owning households. Here is a chart that shows how expansive Sinclair’s proposed takeover would be. You can see here the current marks, and you can see down below the proportional footprint.

Traditionally, the FCC has interpreted its rules to prohibit Sinclair from making that deal, but Chairman Pai authored an order in April reinterpreting FCC policy to allow Sinclair to grab almost three-quarters of the market, and Sinclair happens to be well known for its friendly coverage of President Trump. It even requires local broadcast outlets to regularly carry national commentary from a former Trump campaign and White House media surrogate, and its executives have been complimentary of Chairman Pai personally.

Congress intended for there to be a multiplicity and diversity of voices and opinions on the airwaves. Congress explicitly wants to prevent one media organization from having an outsized influence over the Nation.

I have strong reservations about Chairman Pai’s leadership and values. Free speech, media ownership rules, and net neutrality are essential to a healthy democracy, and the Chairman is equivocating or moving backward on all fronts. For these reasons, I oppose this nomination.

Nevertheless, if he is confirmed, I hope we can find common ground and work together. One area where we could do that is rural and Tribal broadband in the West. In my home State of New Mexico, rural areas, pueblos, and Tribes do not have access to the internet that is anywhere near adequate. Approximately 63 percent of people living on Tribal land lack access to acceptable fixed broadband speeds, compared to only 17 percent of the U.S. population as a whole. The gap is even higher for residents of Tribal lands in rural areas, with approximately 85 percent of Tribal people lacking access.

We all know that in today’s world, broadband internet is essential to virtually all successful economic and commercial activity. It is essential to everyday life in America. As a member of the Commerce Committee, I will continue to push the FCC to do all it can to close the digital divide.

Broadband expansion is not a question of political ideology; it is a question of political will. The Federal Government played a big role in expanding electricity and telephone service to every American. We, as a country, have made major investments. We must do the same for rural broadband. Senate Democrats have made a number of concrete proposals recently. I hope we can work with our Republican colleagues on these. I urge Chairman Pai to take them seriously.

Members of the Commission must be 100 percent committed to principles of free speech, to protecting consumers and the underserved. Mr. Pai’s record does not give me sufficient confidence that he shares that commitment, and, therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to reject his nomination.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I come here today to talk about the nomination of FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, but before I begin, I think all of us have incredibly heavy hearts in our homes, in our States, in the country, and in the world, as the horrifying events of Las Vegas really begin to sink in.

I just saw an article come across the news line in my home State of West Virginia with one of the first identifications of the victims. Her name was Denise Burditus. She is from Martinsburg, WV. She and her husband Tony were at the concert together. They have been married 32 years. They were high school sweethearts and were there vacationing and at the concert. Tony wrote on his Facebook page that his wife died in his arms. So we have lost a mother of two, and soon to be a grandmother of five, to this horrible tragedy. My heart sinks for them and for everyone. I really don’t have the words to say to comfort or explain or understand, except that I feel deeply sad and sorry, and I pray for them and their families.

Today, Madam President, I want to talk about the nomination and reappointment of Ajit Pai as the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Chairman Pai has been an important partner in my quest to bring rural America and much of my State online. I was very lucky to meet Chairman Pai several years ago. Without question, he has been a champion.

Without question, high-speed internet access has allowed us to connect with one another on a scale we never could have imagined a decade ago. No other technology has become so critical to our daily lives. It is the backbone for our innovation, competition, and economic growth. From starting a business to digital learning and telemedicine, broadband access is critical to the strength of our economy and our communities. Unfortunately, for all the potential opportunities that broadband can offer, not having access to this important service can create insurmountable barriers.

Better connecting States like mine—West Virginia—through improved broadband has become one of my top priorities. Without this, our rural areas risk being left behind. The digital divide exists in this country, and rural Americans are the ones who are on the wrong side of the divide. Small communities and businesses across West Virginia and elsewhere in rural America lack this fundamental infrastructure.

No one understands these issues more than Ajit Pai. Chairman Pai grew up in rural Kansas. He told me that sometimes when he goes home to visit his parents, he cannot get connected in his own hometown. He knows the challenges facing rural communities.

I have had the pleasure of hosting Chairman Pai and his staff multiple times in West Virginia. Most recently, Chairman Pai came to Wardensville in Hardy County, WV, where we have good connectivity and where we have actually been able to create new businesses and opportunities for a small town such as Wardensville. Following our visit, we traveled just 20, 30 miles over to Hampshire County, where getting high-speed internet has been far more challenging. There, Chairman Pai met Eric Hott of Kirby, WV, who has a small chocolate business. Eric is having trouble following up with orders and attracting new customers because he can't get consistent broadband access.

Last August, I held a roundtable discussion with Chairman Pai in Fayette County, WV, focusing on the digital divide and the impacts on tourism. We visited Adventures on the Gorge. I even convinced him to join me on a bridge walk across the beautiful New River Gorge. This outdoor recreation destination is one of West Virginia's most beautiful and premier tourist destinations, but the small businesses there are hampered by the lack of connectivity.

We heard firsthand from business owners who can't grow their business because of poor internet connectivity. It is hard to attract a talented workforce to live and visit in these more rural parts of our States. A local restaurant owner shared their difficulty in notifying customers of available tables through their online system. They lost business because of this.

During each of the Chairman's visits, we discussed possible solutions to promote greater access and competition. Chairman Pai is a great listener. He listens to what the issues are, and those include reducing barriers to investment, streamlining the regulatory environment, encouraging public-private partnerships, and ensuring accountability on behalf of the taxpayer.

Following his tour across the country, during which he stopped in West Virginia, Chairman Pai proposed a digital empowerment agenda right down the alley of the issues we just talked about—to grant Americans living in communities of all sizes, from urban cores to smaller, rural towns, with these online opportunities. Chairman Pai's agenda highlighted a variety of specific measures the FCC, Congress, and State and local governments could make to simplify broadband deployment.

Broadband access will be the result of partnerships between private, local, State, and Federal agencies and organizations. We need to have this collaboration to eliminate duplicative and outdated programs so that States like mine can efficiently deliver broadband to our rural communities efficiently and cost-effectively.

By listening to communities like ours—and remember, I said Chairman Pai is a great listener—the Chairman

has built a plan for achieving widespread broadband access that meets the unique demands of our rural communities.

The FCC plays an imperative role in addressing these issues in large and small States, particularly rural States like mine.

In the 21st-century economy, robust telecommunication networks are increasingly important for today's users and the foundation of future innovations.

Under his leadership at the FCC, he has already taken steps toward modernizing the Commission's role and promoting digital empowerment. Since the beginning of his tenure, the Commission has hit the ground running, enacting a broad strategic vision to close the digital divide, to modernize the Commission's rules, promote innovation, protect consumer and public safety, and improve the Commission's daily operations.

Under Chairman Pai's leadership, the Commission has made significant investments to deliver broadband service to underserved and unserved areas of the country. I am confident that rural America will see more progress with his continued leadership, and today I am very proud to support his renomination to the FCC as he ascends and retakes the chairmanship of a very important part of our communications and telecommunications network.

With that, I yield back.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I wish to begin by offering my condolences to the victims of the massacre in Las Vegas last night and to their loved ones. I am heartsick for the residents of Las Vegas and everyone around the country who woke up to the horrendous news of last night's attack and who is worried sick about whether their family members, friends, and neighbors are OK.

Thoughts and prayers are good, but they are simply not enough. Thoughts and prayers are not enough when more moms and dads will bury their children this week. Thoughts and prayers are not enough when sons and daughters will be forced to grow up without their parents.

Attacks like the one last night have happened all too often in America. Enough is enough. We have to have a conversation about how to stop gun violence in America, and we need to have that conversation right now.

Madam President, I want to take some time to discuss the vote we will be taking shortly on the nomination of

Ajit Pai to serve as the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission, or the FCC.

One thing that last night showed us is the importance of connections. Every day, moms and dads pick up their phones to check in on their kids, students go online to do research on homework assignments, and families sit together to watch the newest hit television show or movie. It is just a fact—media and telecommunications services play a vital role in helping American households connect with their loved ones, communities, and the world around them.

The FCC makes sure those services are available and accessible to all Americans, whether they live in a rural community or in a large city—at least that is what the FCC is supposed to do. There are a lot of powerful companies that want to change that picture, companies that want to change the rules so they can line the pockets of their corporate executives and their wealthy investors. Those powerful companies have launched an all-out assault on every branch of our government with only one goal: to make sure the government works for them and for their buddies. If it leaves everyone else in the dirt, they don't much care.

As powerful companies know, it is good to have friends on the inside, and they have invested a lot of money in making friends. Giant corporations have spent unlimited amounts of money to elect politicians who will promote their views and to flood Congress with lobbyists who will work around the clock to destroy laws and rules that the industry doesn't like and to reshape those laws to suit corporate interests. But electing politicians and inflating Congress with lobbyists isn't enough. Their Republican buddies in Congress can only do so much. Powerful corporations need weak agencies that will not hold them accountable, so they work to fill those agencies with their allies—friends who can undo the rules that giant corporations don't like, friends who will not go after those companies when they throw the rules out the window to make an extra buck.

The FCC is one of the agencies that have been on their hit list for a long time, and now they see their opportunity to execute a corporate takeover of the FCC. They started at the top with Ajit Pai, President Trump's pick to chair the FCC.

Since his appointment as Chair of the FCC, Chairman Pai has worked at breakneck speed to transform the FCC from an agency that works in the public interest to a big business support group.

Chairman Pai started with net neutrality protections—rules that help keep the internet free and open by preventing giant broadband companies from discriminating against certain internet users and turning the internet into another service that caters to those who can pay top dollar. Like his big broadband buddies, Chairman Pai

opposes net neutrality. Once President Trump was elected, Chairman Pai declared that the days of net neutrality protections were numbered, and now he is working hard to reverse those rules.

Chairman Pai has more items on his agenda. He is working to weaken the FCC's Lifeline Program, which helps low-income households across the country pay for phone and broadband service. Chairman Pai has also halted the FCC's efforts to demand some accountability from private prison phone companies that charge sky-high rates to prisoners and their loved ones. Chairman Pai thinks it is just fine for private companies to make it harder for prisoners to stay connected to their families and their communities by charging exorbitant phone fees.

Chairman Pai defends killing these strong, public-centered rules by repeating a version of the same old, tired refrain that we have heard over and over from industry: Government should stay out of the way and let big corporations do as they please because when big corporations make lots of profits, that benefits everyone. Yeah, right. That worn-out theory has been disproved time and time again. Americans know that when government is asleep at the wheel and big companies get to make the rules, those giant companies make out like bandits, while everyone else gets stuck with the bill.

That is not all. When government doesn't do its job, when it fails to protect the public interest, the big guys can grow even larger and more powerful and can translate greater economic power into greater political power, and that is where it gets very scary. Just look at Sinclair Broadcast Group. Sinclair is the largest television station owner in America, and it has made a name for itself by aggressively promoting ultraconservative views. It is infamous for forcing its stations to regularly run rightwing segments, and it melds its radical ideology with a take-no-prisoners profit-making mission, finding more and more creative ways to reduce news coverage and instead promote its sponsors' products.

Being the biggest isn't enough for Sinclair—it wants to become even more powerful, so it has put in a bid to purchase Tribune Broadcasting, another large television station owner. If government regulators don't stop the merger, Sinclair would have access to over 70 percent of American households. If the alarm bells haven't already gone off, this is where they should start ringing like crazy.

During the Presidential campaign, Sinclair was a huge supporter of then-Candidate Trump. It used its power in local television markets to spread slanted, pro-Trump news stories. Jared Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law, even bragged about reaching a deal with Sinclair to get more positive news media coverage of Trump.

The day before Trump's inauguration, Sinclair's chairman met with Pai—who was then an FCC Commis-

sioner but who was expected to be promoted to Chairman—he met with him to urge him to change the rules so Sinclair can grow even more powerful. When President Trump nominated Pai to chair the FCC, Sinclair got exactly what it wanted: Chairman Pai immediately got to work changing the rules so it would be easier for Sinclair to acquire Tribune.

Local media is sacred to many Americans. It is where we catch up on what is happening in our communities from people who know and care about our communities. A merger between Sinclair and Tribune would allow Sinclair to change that dynamic. With more local programming coming from a centralized source, there would be less information and less diversity of ideas in local reporting. That kind of concentrated power is bad for competition, and it is worse for democracy. Whether the Sinclair agenda is on the political right or the political left, no single, centralized corporation should control access to local programming for so many households.

We need a strong Chair at the FCC, a Chair who understands that the government's role is to work for American families and to hold giant corporations accountable. We do not need a Chair at the FCC who is working for the most powerful communications corporations in this country. That is why I will vote no on the nomination of Chairman Pai to be Chairman of the FCC.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

TRIBUTE TO LYLE E. STROM AND WILLIAM J. RILEY

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I rise today to recognize two Nebraskans who are retiring after long careers of service to the American people: the Honorable Lyle E. Strom and the Honorable William J. Riley. Both of these judges have spent years upholding the rule of law, and their professionalism has established a strong reputation for their respective courts. They are true role models for current and aspiring lawyers and judges, and their exceptional work should be acknowledged.

Lyle Elmer Strom was born on January 6, 1925, in Omaha, NE. His mother was a schoolteacher. His father worked as an oil trader. Judge Strom has said that he didn't much care for school while he was growing up. Instead, he found himself causing more trouble than good, especially when he played football on top of the nearby grain silo with some friends.

In 1943, after being rejected by the Navy because of weak eyesight, Strom enlisted in the Merchant Marines as a radio signal operator. During his time in the Naval Reserve, he was inspired to become a lawyer after being impressed by his fellow Merchant Marines who had obtained college and professional degrees.

After serving his country in the military, Strom graduated from Creighton

University with a B.A. in 1950. That same year, he married the love of his life, his wife Regina. Together, they had seven children. In 1953, Strom graduated from Creighton University's School of Law, finishing at the top of his class. He soon joined the prestigious firm of Fitzgerald, Schorr, Barmettler, & Brennan.

Strom started his career believing he would be a business type of lawyer. Shortly after joining the firm, however, Bob Hamer brought Strom into his litigation group because he was smart and a hard-working professional. By 1958, Strom led the litigation practice for the firm.

Over his years of private practice, Lyle Strom became a well-known, well-liked litigator in Nebraska, especially in Omaha. In 1985, after 32 years of law practice and with encouragement from Congressman Hal Daub, President Ronald Reagan appointed Strom to the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska. He served as chief judge of the court from 1987 until 1994 and in 1995 took senior status, allowing him the ability to continue sitting as a judge on cases over the past 22 years.

Judge Strom has always been dedicated to the craft of practicing law. He served as the president of the Omaha Bar Association from 1980 to 1981 and as president of the Nebraska State Bar Association from 1989 to 1990.

One of his biggest joys has come in the form of mentoring aspiring lawyers and young people—something he has done throughout his career. In his first decade as a lawyer, he worked as a professor at Creighton University. In his fifth, after becoming a Federal judge with a full caseload, Judge Strom served as the Creighton Law School internship program director and clinical professor of law.

Strom has also dedicated decades of service to the Boy Scouts of America and was the founder of the Inns of Court organization in Nebraska and has been closely involved with the Nebraska Mock Trial Program.

During his 64 years of practice, Judge Strom has been a model for dedication to the rule of law. His hard work and mentoring to both aspiring lawyers and young people across Omaha have made him a staple in our communities.

He has also had an eye for talent. In 1973, while still working as a litigation lawyer, Strom hired a new lawyer to the firm—William J. Riley. This began a great professional relationship between two of the top lawyers in Nebraska.

Born in Lincoln in 1947, Bill Riley obtained both his B.A. and his juris doctorate from the University of Nebraska, graduating from the law school in 1972. While in school, Riley served as the editor and chief of the Nebraska Law Review, and he graduated at the top of his class.

From 1972 to 1973, Riley clerked for the Honorable Donald P. Lay with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, a court he would later serve on 30 years later.

It was Judge Lay who told Riley that the best tutelage he could receive as a trial attorney would be at the firm of Fitzgerald, Schorr, Barmettler, & Brennan, the firm where a legendary attorney, Lyle Strom, had led the Litigation Department since 1958. It was great advice. After Strom became a judge, it was Riley who took his place as chair of the firm's litigation department.

In 2001, Riley's professionalism caught the eye of both Nebraska Senators and the President of the United States, George W. Bush. The new President nominated him to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Riley was confirmed unanimously in September of 2001, becoming one of President Bush's first circuit court appointments. He became chief judge for the Eighth Circuit in 2010.

During his tenure, Riley was intimately involved in the governance and policy-setting for the entire U.S. Federal court system. He served on the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, an organization presided over by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Riley also served as strategic planning coordinator for the Judicial Conference, helping enact greater cyber security measures throughout the Federal court system.

Judge Riley has served our country well over the last 16 years, and on June 30, 2017, after 45 years of practicing law, Judge Riley took senior status on the Eighth Circuit. He said that now he is going to have time to relax with his wife Norma, their three children, and their nine grandchildren.

Riley has served his local legal community by teaching trial practice at both Creighton University School of Law and the University of Nebraska College of Law. He is a decorated Boy Scout leader and served as a founding member of the Robert M. Spire American Inn of Court legal mentoring program.

Before his appointment to the court, Riley served as president of the Omaha Bar Association from 2000 to 2001.

Both of these judges deserve our respect for how they approach the justice system and the law. Both are role models that I hope future lawyers and judges follow. Their careers should be applauded and their commitment to our community should be honored. I wish them the best in their retirement.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Madam President, now, if I may, I would like to express my sympathies and the sympathies of the people of Nebraska for those who have lost loved ones in Las Vegas. Our hearts are heavy. I am praying for them and for those who were injured and for their families as well.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak about the vote we will have at 5:30 p.m., but I want to give my condolences to those who have been impacted by the horrific shooting in Las Vegas and to the families and the victims of this horrible incident. I want them to know that our thoughts and prayers are with them as the whole Nation turns to this situation.

My thoughts and prayers also go out to at least one Washington family who was impacted and was at this event. We may find out that there are others. We are thinking and praying deeply for their recovery, and I hope everybody will take the time to say some thoughts and prayers for those who have been impacted by this incident.

Madam President, I come to the floor to speak in opposition to the nomination of Ajit Pai to have a second term as the Chairman of the FCC. The reason why we are speaking about this vote that will happen in a short period of time is because we are concerned about the future of innovation, the future of where consumers play in the decision making of how they access content, and the future of our economy.

What I am worried about is that, in the short period of time that Chairman Pai has been at the FCC, instead of the policies that would have enabled consumers, he has taken actions that, I think, will have consumers paying more for less access and with which media concentration will be more enabled and plans to protect net neutrality in an open internet will be reversed.

This, in and of itself, is the biggest issue that I and the economy of Washington State could possibly see with this renomination; that is to say, the State of Washington and the internet and innovation that exists there could be greatly impacted by the rolling back of protections that we have now, which say that you cannot artificially throttle or slow down internet activity and hold consumers hostage to paying more.

The mission of the FCC is to promote the use and deployment of communications in the public interest, and it is the job of the Chairman to make sure that mission is carried out. Undoing the existing net neutrality laws on the books, I do not think, is in the public interest, and it will not promote the access we need. Dismantling this rule that would preserve the diversity of content will negatively impact our marketplace for a long time.

When we think about some of the issues that we have already seen and what we could see in the future, more consumers will have to pay a toll to use the internet. What we will see is that, if you want to get in the fast lane or if you want to have rapid access, you have to pay more.

Today consumers are using mobile apps to preorder coffee, to get access to healthcare information, and to make sure that we protect ourselves from attacks on everything, from our electricity grid to people's homes and security systems. I am very worried that, if the internet's arteries are officially slowed down or clogged, critical information could arrive too late to help protect consumers.

We are living in a world where people are seeing things happen then using their smart phones to collect and share information that can keep all of us safe. So this is another reason why we want to make sure that consumers can get access to and share information and are not slowed down or throttled in any way.

When we think about this and the app economy that exists in Washington State, these are the fastest growing businesses. It is part of a large organization, where, today, 1.7 million Americans' jobs are because of these apps, and nearly 92,000 of them are in the State of Washington. They have grown at an annual rate of 30 percent. The average growth rate for all other jobs is 1.6 percent. Why would we confirm someone who has already pledged to roll back the rules of an open internet, which basically will create throttling and slowing down of content that will hurt the app economy and small businesses?

Nobody wants to develop a new application that connects consumers—whether it is in healthcare or protecting people in cyber or education or, for that matter, even the Senate—if they are going to have to pay a toll to get faster access to information or to get faster access to their customers.

Dismantling net neutrality puts our economy in jeopardy. While I know some would say that it is necessary for investment, I would say that instead what we have seen in the last several years, while the open internet rules have been in place, is the type of increased investment in the internet infrastructure that is needed to support its growing importance.

I do not agree with my colleagues who think this reversing the open internet rules is necessary to grow our investments. That's just what the large cable companies tell you they need so that they can build fast and slow lanes and charge consumers more if they want access to those fast lanes.

I encourage my colleagues to vote no on Ajit Pai for a second term as FCC Commissioner. Let's get focused on making sure we protect an open internet.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. MORAN). The Senator from Massachusetts.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I wish to start my remarks with my deepest condolences and prayers for the people of Las Vegas and for the families and loved ones of the victims of the worst

mass shooting in our Nation's history. The Nation's heart breaks that innocent concertgoers had to suffer such senseless violence. May you find the strength and love to overcome your grief, to heal, and to move forward.

We owe our gratitude to the brave first responders for their efforts last night and to the medical professionals who are working tirelessly to heal wounds and save lives right now. But enough is enough. Americans are tired of living in fear that their community will be the next Newtown, Aurora, Orlando, or Las Vegas. We must act so that we do not become numb to this preventable carnage.

This epidemic of gun violence in our country is not preordained. It is preventable. We can begin by banning these military-style assault weapons, like the AR-51, which are the guns of choice for those who seek to inflict mass casualties on civilians. These are weapons that belong in combat, not in our communities.

Unfortunately, the gun lobby prevailed on Congress to let the assault weapons ban expire in 2004, but we need it now more than ever. We must also pass legislation to ensure that all gun purchases include a background check. Ninety-two percent of Americans support expanded background checks. No one should be able to purchase a gun through Facebook or Instagram without a background check. Instagram should not be "Instagun," which it is in America today.

Let's also close the gun-show loophole that allows anyone to go into one of these Kmart's full of killing machines and buy a gun without a background check. Let's close the loophole that allows domestic abusers to buy guns. Let's close the loophole that allows straw purchasers to buy guns and flood our streets with them. Let's repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, or the PLCAA, and take away the gun manufacturers' immunity from civil liability. PLCAA should stand for "protecting lives, creating arms accountability."

We must also recognize that this epidemic of gun violence is a public health emergency, and we must treat it that way. We must fully fund this critical research agenda at the Centers for Disease Control and give the CDC the resources it needs.

We will hear lots of people say that now is not the time to politicize this tragedy, that talking about legislation is insensitive and wrong. The only thing the NRA wants more than to sell lots of gun silencers is to put a silencer on the debate about gun safety legislation. The only thing the NRA wants more than allowing nationwide concealed carry laws is to conceal the overwhelming support for background checks. The only thing the NRA wants more than to stifle smart gun technology is to stifle debate on gun violence protection.

So to anyone who says having this debate now is too soon, it is already

too late for at least 58 people in Las Vegas and the hundreds of others who were wounded. We should not wait another day. We need to pass common-sense gun safety legislation so we can hold a moment of silence for the NRA's stranglehold on American politics. We must make "NRA" stand for "not relevant anymore" in American politics and in our country. That should be our agenda here on the floor of the Senate.

What is wrong is leaving Americans in our communities unprotected yet again from gun violence. What is wrong is not having a debate and allowing the NRA to block sensible gun safety legislation. We must act so that we do not become numb to the preventable carnage for the people of Las Vegas and the people of Newtown, Aurora, San Bernardino, and every community in our country. That should be our responsibility now in this country.

Mr. President, I wish to turn my attention to the confirmation of FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, the subject of today's vote on the Senate floor.

Last week, I took to the floor to explain how, in his short tenure as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Ajit Pai has stood up for big corporations and ignored American consumers.

Under Ajit Pai, the FCC now stands for "forgetting consumers and competition." Here are the five reasons I gave.

No. 1, on net neutrality, I explained how Ajit Pai wants to take a "weed whacker"—his words—to net neutrality, allowing broadband providers to serve as internet gatekeepers and pick online winners and losers.

No. 2, on privacy, Chairman Pai has actively supported efforts to allow broadband providers to sell consumers' sensitive information without their consent, as well as eliminating requirements for those companies to put in place data security protections, despite the obvious need to protect personal information.

No. 3, on megamergers, Mr. Pai has paved the way for massive mergers, which will squeeze out independent programmers and lead to higher prices for consumers.

No. 4, on the E-rate, the education rate, Chairman Pai has refused to commit to protecting the E-rate, the most successful educational technology program in our country's history, which links up schools and libraries to the internet.

No. 5, on the Lifeline Program, Mr. Pai has undercut the Lifeline Program, which provides access to voice and internet service for millions of low-income Americans.

The case against Chairman Pai's nomination is clear. I want to spend a few more minutes today on the particularly critical issue of net neutrality, the chief governing principle of the internet.

Net neutrality ensures that all internet traffic is treated equally, requiring that internet service providers like AT&T, Charter, Verizon, and Comcast

do not block, slow down, censor, or prioritize internet traffic.

Today, essentially every company is an internet company. Every company has to deal with the digital revolution to be relevant in the 21st century. In 2016, almost half of the venture capital funds invested in this country went toward internet-specific and software companies. That is \$25 billion worth of investment—half of all venture capital in this country. That is good.

To meet America's insatiable demand for broadband internet, the U.S. broadband and telecommunications industry—the big companies—invested more than \$87 billion in capital expenditures in 2015. That is the highest rate of annual investment in the last 10 years. That is good.

We have hit the sweet spot. Investment in broadband and wireless technologies is very high. Job creation is very high. Venture capital investment in online startups is very high. With net neutrality rules in place, the best ideas, not merely the best funded ideas, can thrive in the 21st century.

Chairman Pai says he "likes" net neutrality, but then he says he wants to take an ax to the very order that established today's net neutrality rules. That is like saying you value democracy but don't really like the Constitution. It makes no sense. Net neutrality is the organizing principle of the internet.

Chairman Pai and the ISPs—that is, internet service providers, the big companies—keep walking around, whispering how title II is some terrible word, some terrible thing.

Let's understand how we landed here. What is title II? It gets very mysterious until you put it into very simple language. In 2010, the Federal Communications Commission attempted to put net neutrality rules in place without reclassifying broadband under title II of the Communications Act. The District of Columbia Circuit Court proceeded to invalidate those rules and said to the Federal Communications Commission: Here is how you can do it, and it will not be struck down. Here is a smart way for you to put net neutrality on the books, which will make it legal.

So the Federal Communications Commission, in correctly reading the court decision, went back, and in 2015 adopted the open internet order, which reclassified broadband as a telecommunications service under title II—under this ability to regulate. They did it, and the circuit court of appeals upheld the rules in a 2016 decision.

There it is: instructed by the court how to do it, follow the instructions, implement, done. It is now baked into the personality of the internet to have openness. The apertures are there for anyone to be able to get on, not to be discriminated against. That is what the internet should be like in the 21st century.

Title II is appropriate because it was Congress's intent to preserve the FCC's

authority to forestall threats to competition and innovation in telecommunications services, even as those technologies used to offer those services evolve over time.

We are not locked into one period of technology. As it evolves, so, too, does an evolution occur in terms of what openness means—the ability of everyone to be able to use the internet without being discriminated against.

Broadband has become the single most important telecommunications service Americans use to transmit information to one another, and it has become clear that innovators, businesses, and consumers overwhelmingly view broadband as a telecommunications service.

This is common sense to Americans around the country, with the only exception being big telecommunications lobbyists and lawyers who work to close this internet, who want to stop this incredible, entrepreneurial, democracy-enhancing set of rules that exists to ensure that this communications mechanism is not controlled by just a small number of companies.

Ajit Pai has said that he likes net neutrality, but he thinks it should be voluntary. But voluntary regulations will not work. We know that the broadband industry—your cable, your wireless, your telecommunications provider—cannot regulate themselves. They struggle to even show up on time to install or fix your service.

Do we really trust the broadband industry to resist leveraging their internet gatekeeper role and putting their online competitors at an unfair disadvantage? Of course not.

Americans have made their voices heard about net neutrality. More than 22 million Americans have written to the Federal Communications Commission in the past several months, sending a clear message of support for net neutrality. Hear that again: 22 million Americans sent a message to the Federal Communications Commission that they do not want to see a change in the net neutrality rules for our country. Yet Ajit Pai will not listen. His plan will allow broadband providers to stifle innovation, stifle entrepreneurship. His plan will allow big broadband barons to crush competition, reduce choice, and then make consumers pay more.

We cannot allow this to happen. That is why this vote we are about to take is so important. That is why I urge my colleagues to stand up for consumers and to vote no on Ajit Pai's nomination to be the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to complete my remarks prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise to voice my strong support for the nomination of Ajit Pai to a second 5-year term as a Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission. Mr. Pai has served as a Commissioner at the FCC since 2012, when he was first confirmed by a voice vote in the Senate. He was designated as Chairman earlier this year.

A native of Kansas, Chairman Pai has focused on the expansion of rural broadband and the acceleration of next-generation infrastructure deployment. In recent weeks, he has worked tirelessly to help ensure that communications services are restored to the communities that have been affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. In just his 9 months since becoming Chairman, Mr. Pai has also made much needed reforms to improve transparency at the FCC and to improve the agency's processes.

I am particularly heartened by Chairman Pai's efforts to treat his fellow Commissioners fairly by instituting the process of sharing documents with other Commissioners before discussing them publicly. Additionally, under Chairman Pai's leadership, the public is now able to view the text of all agenda items in advance of Commission hearings.

With respect to the thorny issue of internet regulations, I am pleased Chairman Pai has sought to hit the reset button on the 2015 title II order because, as I had previously said, the FCC should do what is necessary to rebalance its regulatory posture under current law. At the same time, I continue to believe the best way to provide long-term protections for the internet is for Congress to pass bipartisan legislation.

Rather than prolonging the back-and-forth debate on this issue, I, once again, invite my colleagues to work with me to find a lasting legislative solution that will resolve the dispute over net neutrality once and for all.

As for the nomination before us, I can think of no better pick to lead the FCC as it works to address a host of issues at the heart of our interconnected economy. As I noted at the outset, Chairman Pai has already made much needed reforms to improve the processes at the FCC that empower fellow Commissioners. He has already shown a commitment to ensuring transparency and openness at the Commission. That gives me great confidence in the direction he will lead the agency.

Chairman Pai's approach, I believe, will lead to more long-lasting and positive results at the FCC. That is why I believe the elevation of Ajit Pai to be the Chairman of the Commission is a much needed breath of fresh air and why I believe he should be confirmed

promptly and without further delay. I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pai nomination?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 209 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Isakson	Sasse
Collins	Johnson	Scott
Corker	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Strange
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Tester
Cruz	McCaskill	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tillis
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Flake	Perdue	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Franken	Murray
Bennet	Gillibrand	Nelson
Blumenthal	Harris	Reed
Booker	Hassan	Schatz
Brown	Heinrich	Schumer
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Shaheen
Cardin	Hirono	Stabenow
Carper	Kaine	Udall
Casey	King	Van Hollen
Coons	Klobuchar	Warner
Donnelly	Leahy	Warren
Duckworth	Markey	Whitehouse
Durbin	Merkley	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—7

Cochran	McCain	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Menendez	
Heller	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Arizona.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF AMY BARRETT

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss how we allow religious believers to participate in public life.

From the founding of our country, religious believers have played a central role in our government. The Declaration of Independence was signed by a Presbyterian minister, John Witherspoon, and Charles Carroll, the cousin of our first Catholic bishop.

The importance of religious participation was in the air the Founders breathed, and the benefits religious believers of all backgrounds contributed to the common good was understood by the Framers of the Constitution. That is why they made it clear in article VI of the Constitution that no public officers could be subject to a "religious test." This new country wouldn't be a country for Anglicans or for Congregationalists or for Quakers; it would be a country for all Americans and all faiths—all of those who are committed to the Constitution and the common good.

Unfortunately, the religious test clause is no longer just the subject of history lessons. During this Congress, there have been a number of cases where my friends in the minority have seemed to ask nominees about their substantive religious beliefs. I find this particularly troublesome because, as a Mormon, I am a member of a faith that, while it is growing rapidly, still counts fewer adherents than many other religions. It is religious liberty, espoused in constitutional provisions like article VI and the First Amendment, that has allowed my faith, despite a very difficult history, to flourish in the United States, and it is religious liberty that is threatened when we seem to evaluate the fitness of nominees for higher office on religious orthodoxy.

The most recent example of this was the recent Judiciary Committee nomination hearing of Professor Amy Coney Barrett of the Notre Dame Law School. During the hearing, she was asked repeatedly about her Catholic faith and faced what bordered on ridicule when she repeatedly stated that she would perform her judicial duties without interference from the doctrines of the Catholic faith. It was stated by one questioner: "The dogma lives loudly within you, and that's of concern." What does that statement mean in this context, if not to question Professor Barrett's judicial fitness based on her religious beliefs?

Liberal groups have been relentless in their opposition to Professor Barrett, mischaracterizing her record to paint her as some kind of fringe ideologue waiting to take orders from the Pope or others in clergy on how to decide cases. Just last week, the New York Times ran a 1500-word story on where Professor Barrett worships. As it turns out, apart from her parish church, Professor Barrett has been part of an ecumenical charismatic community.

I should note that charismatic Christianity is gaining a lot of ground among Latinos in the United States and throughout Latin America. It is a vibrant and very diverse religious tradition.

According to the Times, Professor Barrett should have disclosed her participation in this charismatic community to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Professor Barrett's former professor and colleague, Professor Cathy Kaveny of Boston College, went so far as to ask: "[Nominees] have to disclose everything from the Elks Lodge to the alumni associations we belong to. Why didn't she disclose this?" Well, I am no law professor, but I can tell you why: because in the United States of America, it doesn't matter where you worship when you are being considered for Federal office, and that is as it should be.

The Judiciary Committee does not require disclosure of religious affiliation, and I trust my colleagues would join me in strenuously objecting if it did.

It is ironic that a Notre Dame professor is a target of this kind of animus. Notre Dame, of course, has long been at the forefront of fighting prejudice in this country.

Early in its years, Notre Dame helped rid America of the scourge of slavery. Many artists have rendered Notre Dame professor, Father William Corby, giving the Irish Brigade general absolution during the Battle of Gettysburg.

The school then faced down the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s. At a time when a large number of White men in Indiana were members of the Klan, Notre Dame students made it clear that the Klan's brand of nativist, anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic hate was not welcomed in South Bend.

Four decades later, Notre Dame's president, Father Ted Hesburgh, received a call about a rally at Soldier Field being organized by Dr. Martin Luther King. Hesburgh was told that Mayor Daley and Cardinal Cody had declined invitations to appear at the civil rights rally, and the organizers wondered if he would be willing to appear. In response, Hesburgh drove to Chicago, locked hands with Dr. King, and sang "We Shall Overcome."

Whether it is slavery, nativism, or Jim Crow, Notre Dame has stood up to it and has triumphed. In that same tradition, I am confident that Professor

Barrett is up to that task. What is remarkable is that I need to say this in 2017.

It bears repeating that a Roman Catholic can be a faithful steward of the law. So can an Episcopalian. So can a Mormon. So can a Muslim. Of course, so can an atheist.

We in the Senate give the President advice and consent on judicial nominations. We therefore should examine their jurisprudential views and their qualifications. We must not examine their relationships with the Almighty.

I sincerely hope this body will step back from this dangerous ledge and evaluate Professor Barrett based on her impeccable qualifications, not where she attends church.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 119, Lee Francis Cissna.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Lee Francis Cissna, of Maryland, to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Lee Francis Cissna, of Maryland, to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, John McCain, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Lee, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, James M. Inhofe, Cory Gardner, Jeff Flake, John Thune, John Barrasso, Orrin G. Hatch.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 112, Eric Hargan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric D. Hargan, of Illinois, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Eric D. Hargan, of Illinois, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Mitch McConnell, Lamar Alexander, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, Thad Cochran, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, John Thune, Mike Crapo, Bill Cassidy, James M. Inhofe, Tom Cotton.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 301, Randal Quarles.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Randal Quarles, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2004.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Randal Quarles, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2004.

Mitch McConnell, Orrin G. Hatch, James Lankford, Jerry Moran, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, Thom Tillis, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, John Boozman, John Hoeven, Rob Portman.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 226, Callista Gingrich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Callista L. Gingrich, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Holy See.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Callista L. Gingrich, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Holy See.

Mitch McConnell, Bob Corker, Johnny Isakson, Patrick J. Toomey, Richard Burr, Orrin G. Hatch, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, James Lankford, Pat Roberts, Ron Johnson, Richard C. Shelby, Cory Gardner, John Thune, James E. Risch, Deb Fischer, David Perdue.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the man-

datory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Connecticut.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I think all of us felt a familiar knot in our stomach early this morning when we received news of what might be the deadliest mass shooting in American history. The numbers are hard to comprehend. They certainly aren't final. Fifty-eight people are dead, and perhaps over 500 have been wounded, either by the gunshots themselves or by the pandemonium that ensued once the thousands of concertgoers in downtown Las Vegas figured out they were being fired upon from above.

There is nothing wrong with sending every thought and prayer and every bit of your heart to Las Vegas, to all of the family members who lost loved ones, to those who are recovering, to the first responders, and to the community at large. It really does help. I lived through one of these as a witness in Sandy Hook. Many of those parents are still my friends. We are about the same age, and our kids are the same age. While there are absolutely no words and no gestures that can ever salve the wounds that come with losing a child—especially a first grader—it did not hurt to know that the rest of the world was thinking every single minute about that community. There was an overwhelming amount of stuff that showed up in Sandy Hook—the teddy bears that piled up in the days and weeks that followed. It was a reminder to that town that they weren't forgotten. It helps. It does. But it is not enough.

I want to just spend a few moments—I know I was preceded by a few of my colleagues—to talk about the work that we have to do here if we are to address what I would consider to be a festering, lingering paradox that exists in this country. What I mean by that is this. This is a country that leads. Almost every great magical invention in this world today—whether it be open economies, participatory democracies, communication through the internet—is essentially a modern American invention.

The reason that we were able to catapult the rest of the world in just a quarter millennium to a point of global preeminence is because we saw big problems and we solved them before anybody else did. Then we took those solutions and we exported them to the rest of the world. That is a definitional characteristic of this country—working harder than anybody else to solve big problems and then giving that solution to others so they can use it for themselves. The paradox lies here. We solved a lot of big problems: How to govern ourselves, how to order our economies, how to talk to each other, and how to save people from disease. Yet maybe the longest standing human concern is a very simple one—concern for our physical safety.

I can chart you a history of civilization based upon society's ability to protect more consistently our physical body. That is, in fact, one of the original reasons why humans found each other—to try to protect ourselves from physical harm that comes from the outside. The paradox lies in the fact that, when it comes to this country's ability to protect its citizens from physical harm, we are not a leader. We are a laggard. We are an outlier when compared to other industrialized first-world nations. You are much more likely to meet a violent death, especially by the hands of a firearm, in this country than you are in other first-world countries.

It is time for us to explore why this paradox exists. Why are we such a leader and why have we been such a leader over the course of 240 years on so many different concerns, and yet we are a laggard when it comes to protecting ourselves and our fellow citizens from physical violence? The scope of this problem is enormous. When you look at OECD countries, there are just a handful that have a higher rate of violence—and, in particular, gun violence—than the United States.

I have been down on this floor as have Senator DURBIN and others to talk about the numbers, over and over. But every day approximately 80 people lose their lives by gunfire, and two-thirds of those are suicide. But still, about 30 people every day are killed with a gun that is used by someone else. There is really no other country in the industrialized world that meets that rate of gun violence.

The mass shootings, which get the most attention, are truly epidemic. We have become normalized and regularized to 50 or 40 or 30 people losing their lives, but this happens nowhere else other than the United States at this rate. This is a uniquely American problem, and, by the way, it is not just the Las Vegases, the Orlandos, and the Sandy Hooks. We have actually had more mass shootings this year than days in the year, if you categorize a mass shooting as four or more people being shot in any one given time. Let me guarantee you, if four or more people were shot in your town or your neighborhood, that would be a cataclysmic event, and yet it happens on average more than once a day in this country. Because we have become so regularized to it, only with the moments like last night, where the scale is truly epic, do we focus on it as a Nation.

I want my colleagues to understand the pain that comes when the victims of this kind of epidemic violence see nothing but silence from this body. The hurt is deep. The scars are wide in Newtown, but they are made wider by the fact that this body, in 4½ years, has done absolutely nothing to reduce the likelihood of another mass shooting. Indeed, because we have done nothing, the mass shootings continue.

I know these are harsh words, but I believe it in my heart. I think this is

an unintentional endorsement that gets sent to these mass murderers when, slaughter after slaughter, Congress does nothing. If the greatest deliberative body in the world doesn't act in unison to condemn them through policy change, it starts to feel and look like complicity. So there is going to be another wave of unimaginable pain that will sweep across Las Vegas and the country as we learn about who these victims were and, perhaps, as the numbers mount. They will, over time, be just as angry and just as furious at this body as those parents in Sandy Hook are today that we do nothing to try to reduce the likelihood of these shootings. Compassion is important, but it is not enough.

I read a little passage of the Bible to my 5-year-old son every night. I am the furthest thing from a theologian, but I know that sprinkled throughout the Bible are references to the fact that prayer has to be matched with action—with works. James says: "Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." Thoughts and prayers need to be matched by action, and that is our job. Our job, frankly, is not just to send good thoughts. The reason why we exist is to act, to change the laws of the Nation, and to address challenges that our constituents face. Since the beginning of time, the most important challenge our constituents have faced—the human race has faced—is that of physical security.

So before I turn this over to my colleagues, let me just run down very quickly through the arguments that are going to be used over the next few days to continue to do nothing. The first is already in operation today, and it is a critique I hear very often. It is often lodged at me personally. It is this: To talk about policy change in the wake of a mass shooting is to politicize it, to cheapen it. I reject that argument in full force because the reality is that every single day there is a mass shooting. Every single day 80 people die from gun violence. Unfortunately, the news media doesn't pay attention to that regular carnage.

If we aren't talking about policy change the day after a mass shooting in this country, then you are never talking about policy change, because a mass shooting happens, on average, every day. Unfortunately, the ones in which 8 people are shot or 12 people are shot do not get national attention.

Second, whether we like it or not, the world's attention—the country's attention—is positioned on this question of how we protect our country from harm in the immediate aftermath of these mass shootings. It is an enormous gift to the gun lobby, to the forces of status quo, if we cannot talk about how to change our laws to make people safer when everyone's mind is on that question. When a murder occurs, there is not a 48-hour waiting period before the police can try to investigate who did it and how to hold them

accountable. So why can't we get immediately to the question of why these shootings are happening and try to solve it?

Also, others today are saying that legislation is a pointless exercise because you can't regulate away evil. There is truth to that. There are evil people in the world who are regularly doing very bad things, and there is no way that a set of laws can stop people from doing harm. But I would argue in some way, shape, or form, that the very nature of government is an attempt to try to regulate the effect of evil on citizens. Our laws against murder, arson, rape, and assault are attempts to try to make sure that people are protected from evil, from bad people. So why can't we have a conversation about how to make sure that people who are contemplating mass violence, at the very least, do the least violence possible?

It is not coincidental that these epidemic mass shootings, in which 50 or 60 or 40 people have died, largely have happened after the expiration of the assault weapons ban. Now that it is much easier to get your hands on a gun that is much more accurate and much more lethal, the likelihood of large numbers of people dying, as happened last night, is much greater.

An AR-15 style weapon does something different to a human body than a pistol does. That is why 20 kids were shot in Sandy Hook, and not a single one of them survived.

Laws do work. Just look at a State like Connecticut, which requires universal background checks, doesn't allow you to buy assault weapons, and requires you to get a permit before you can carry it. When we passed that set of laws, it resulted in a 40-percent reduction in gun violence, even when you attribute or account for other factors that could have caused that reduction. That is a Johns Hopkins study.

In places that have universal background checks, gun homicides are lower; domestic violence homicides are much lower by a degree of 40 percent. Laws work. The data is irrefutable on this point.

Though you can't regulate away evil in total, you can do more to protect people, especially from this mass-scope gun violence.

Third, people will say: Well, this guy clearly was very mentally ill. With gun laws, you can't do anything about the fact that people are mentally ill. That is true. We should fix our broken system of mental health treatment because it is broken, but we should also recognize that this problem of mass execution is a uniquely American problem, despite the fact that there is no evidence that we have a higher rate of mental illness than any other country.

There are plenty of very mentally ill people in other OECD countries. But in those countries, their mental illness is not a straight line to a gun crime, in large part because they have a very different set of laws that make it harder

to get your hands on a gun and much harder, if not impossible, to get your hands on a weapon that does the kind of mass violence we saw last night.

Lastly, one of the favorite arguments is that this is just too hot an issue for the U.S. Senate or a political body to handle, that it is controversial. It is controversial, but it is not as controversial as people may think.

In fact, the issue of background checks—which I understand may not have been dispositive on what happened in Las Vegas last night but might have reduced the likelihood that another 80 people died from gun violence over the course of Sunday—is supported by 80 percent of Americans.

Most polls will suggest that a majority of Americans support the other sweep in law changes that I talked about as well.

In fact, many of the first steps we would take as a body—saying that people on the terrorist watch list can't buy guns, tightening up the law to make sure people who are mentally ill can't buy guns—are supported by 80 to 90 percent of our constituents, no matter whether they live in a blue State or a red State. The question of making sure that only the right people own guns is actually one of the least controversial issues in the American public today. Why don't we start by finding that common ground? Then maybe after that, we can find other common ground.

This is going to keep happening. This is going to keep happening over and over again. I know the answer can't be that we are powerless, as a body, to do something about it. I personally just can't bring that answer back to the families of Sandy Hook for another year.

I don't want to speak for them, but I have a feeling that the delegation from Nevada is going to have a hard time bringing that answer back to the victims in Las Vegas as well.

This is a growing fraternity—a tragic, awful fraternity—of Members of Congress who represent States and have gone through these horrific mass executions. I had too many phone calls from Senators, Representatives, who were already part of that club when Sandy Hook happened. I got to make that call this morning, as well, to offer whatever advice I could on how to help the community heal.

But this silence has become an unintentional endorsement. It has become a kind of sick complicity, and I hope that in the coming days we can come together—Republicans and Democrats—to start talking about, at the very least, some baby steps to show the people of Las Vegas, to show the people of Orlando, to show my constituents, my friends from Sandy Hook, that silence is no longer an option.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me thank my colleague from Connecticut.

He sponsored a filibuster on this issue, I believe it was last year. I participated in it, as did many Members of our caucus.

Both he and Senator BLUMENTHAL bring a special perspective to this issue of gun violence, representing the State of Connecticut and the families who lost their first graders. I believe they were first graders who were shot down, 20 of them killed in their classrooms.

I remember, when I heard that story on how those children died and their teachers died, I thought to myself: This must be the moment that will motivate America to finally do something if innocent, first grade children can be shot down in their classrooms in this fashion.

The honest answer is that we have spoken a lot about the issue, but we have done little or nothing to change the circumstances that led to their death.

If that were the only case, it would be bad enough, but the Orlando nightclub—I believe 49 were killed there. Some crazed person went there and killed innocent people gathered at that nightclub.

As Senator MURPHY has said, when you go through the litany, it is an endless litany of victims of gun violence—and last night in Las Vegas, NV, the worst gun crime in the modern history of the United States of America, the worst.

Estimates now, which I saw as I came to the floor, are that 58 have died and over 500 were seriously injured. I don't know what the ultimate numbers will be, but those numbers, in and of themselves, are incredible.

Last night, we witnessed what was the worst mass shooting to date in the Nation. This gunman, supposedly, at 10 p.m. last night in Las Vegas local time, began firing from a room on the 32nd floor of a hotel into a crowd of people gathered for a country music festival. He supposedly was holed up in his hotel room with at least 10 guns and obviously fired hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

As I mentioned, 58 people have been reported to have died, and over 515 injured. Those are staggering and horrifying numbers.

There are literally hundreds of families tonight and communities who have been changed forever by this horrendous crime. Our prayers, obviously, naturally, go out to them in this moment of loss and uncertainty.

During and after the shooting—as we expect but should never take for granted—law enforcement, first responders, acted like the heroes that they are, working to stop the shooter, securing the scene, helping the victims, saving lives. We are grateful to these first responders, who so often are called to run to the sound of gunfire to keep us safe, not to run away.

It is unthinkable that this type of shooting tragedy could happen in the United States of America, but I am sorry to say it is becoming a regular

occurrence. This was the worst, but yesterday, October 1, was also the 2-year anniversary of the mass shooting in Roseburg, OR, when a gunman killed eight students and a professor at a community college.

Also, this past weekend, at least 33 people were shot in the city of Chicago. At least four died. The relentless toll of gun violence never seems to stop.

The American Medical Association has declared that gun violence is a public health crisis in America. On an average day, 300 Americans are shot. On an average day, 300 Americans are shot. About one-third of them will die from that gunshot.

Mass shootings, as Senator MURPHY said earlier, have become a daily occurrence. If our critics would say "Please, don't exploit the event of a mass shooting by speaking on the floor," as Senator MURPHY has made clear, then we wouldn't be able to speak any day of the year because they are so common.

We can't let this become the new American normal. We can't just shrug our shoulders when we see over 30,000 Americans shot and killed year after year after year. We can't sit back and do nothing while hundreds of our fellow Americans are shot in one night simply because they went out to hear a music concert.

Just this last week, I was at a concert in Nashville, TN, at the Ryman, the site of the Grand Ole Opry; 2,000 people gathered there. They were mainly folks from the Midwest, many of them retired, who love country music. I am sure, as the people in Las Vegas did. When I heard about what happened in Las Vegas, I thought: Well, what if someone had walked into that theater and opened fire? It could have, sadly, happened there.

What are we going to do about it? Certainly, there will be outrage at the death. There will be grief over the loss. But then what? That is what Senator MURPHY challenges us to think about.

We serve in the U.S. Senate. We are not just casual observers of this violence. We are supposed to pass laws to make America safer. What will we do because of what happened in Las Vegas last night? That is the question that brings me to the floor this evening. If we have a responsibility to keep our families and America safe, what are we prepared to do?

For the gun deaths in Chicago, there are some things that I would do instantly. Background checks—I don't believe we should be able to walk into a gun show and buy a firearm or more than one, incidentally, and take them out of the back door without somebody asking: Who are you? Do you have a criminal record? Would you be disqualified from buying these same guns at a licensed gun dealer?

Currently, the law is riddled with loopholes, and those loopholes lead to death, death on the streets of Chicago.

We also have these purchases being made by straw purchasers. In other words, the girlfriend, who has no criminal record, who walks into the gun

shop in the suburbs of Chicago and buys the gun for her boyfriend outside in the car, who is going to use it that night to shoot up a rival gang member or some other criminal activity. Those are two very obvious things I would push for instantly: Close the gun show loophole; make sure we do something about straw purchasers so that the penalties are serious enough that they will never do it again.

There is more. This morning, I was on a radio show in Chicago, one of the most famous ones, I guess. I listened to a fellow named Steve Cochran celebrating his 1,000th show on the air. This was the topic we talked about.

Steve asked me: Well, what can we do? I said: Steve, we have to rely on people who honor the Second Amendment and believe it is an important part of our Constitution to stand up and lead. I am talking about members of my family who are hunters and sportsmen. I have been out hunting myself. We have to have people who are concerned about guns for self-defense stand up and say: We have to draw a reasonable line. There is no reasonable line under the Second Amendment that would allow what happened in Las Vegas last night.

To think that someone could injure over 500 people and kill 58—what kind of weaponry did he use? We will know. We will find out the details, but it certainly goes beyond any reasonable weaponry needed for self-defense, sport, or hunting purposes.

Can we not at least appeal to those who honor the Second Amendment to join us in drawing a reasonable line so combat and military-style weapons that can lead to such carnage are not considered to be normal or acceptable? Decades ago we did when it came to machineguns. Decades ago we said this is a weapon no one should have, period, except for the military and perhaps law enforcement. Can we return to that conversation? We are going to need the leadership from people who believe in the Second Amendment to make it happen.

We have seen Democrats and Republicans join together to pass meaningful laws to deal with public health crises like opioid addiction. We have to do the same for this public health crisis.

I am sorry to report that a recent nominee for Surgeon General of the United States was almost denied that opportunity because he was bold enough to say that gun violence is a public health crisis. It certainly is.

There is no single law or policy that will prevent every tragic shooting, just as there is no single law or policy that will end heroin overdoses, but let's start working together to do something.

We can't stop the shootings that have already happened in Las Vegas, Chicago, Roseburg, OR, and across the Nation. We failed to respond in time for those victims and their families. But if we work together, we can stop shootings in the future. That is something we should all strive to do.

We must do all we can to spare families the unimaginable pain so many in Las Vegas are feeling today in the aftermath of this horrible tragedy. I hope we will.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I commend the words and the determination for action that were expressed by the Senator from Connecticut and the Senator from Illinois. Like them, and like so many people across the country, I start with condolences and prayers and commendations. I offer condolences to the families—the names and the families we don't know yet—of this most recent tragedy, but we do know they are not only worthy of our expressions of condolence but will be in need of our prayers. Then, I offer commendations, of course, to the first responders and the law enforcement officials who responded as they always do, running toward the danger, running to help. We can't say enough about the work they do.

If we stop at expressing condolences and offering prayers and commending those who take action, like first responders and law enforcement—if we stop there, I don't think that is an adequate response to this tragedy, just like it wasn't an adequate response in connection with the Pulse Night Club or the tragedy in December of 2012 in Newtown, CT. It is nowhere near an adequate response when we consider the enormity of this problem.

I believe we have to take action. I will talk about that in a moment. Action must start with what happens on this floor. It is difficult to take action necessarily if there isn't time for debate, time for collaboration on legislation, and ultimately consideration of legislation on the floor of the Senate and I would hope in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The enormity of this tragedy is almost hard to comprehend when we think about it, not just in terms of the number, which at last count was 58 killed and over 500—over 500—injured. Those numbers are almost too large to comprehend; that one person with one weapon or maybe several weapons was able to inflict that kind of carnage in one place at one time. I don't know how long it took, but he wasn't shooting for many hours to kill that many people. He did it in a short timeframe.

When we consider those numbers, I have to ask—I don't know if we went back and compared a similar day or a similar timeframe, comparing the loss of life in the context of war, but I am sure there were plenty of days of conflict where Americans were on foreign soil in a battle, in a war, where we would have lost even less lives on a particular day or a portion of a particular day. The scale of this is almost unimaginable.

Then, we need to consider what has been happening on our streets. Every State, every community has their own

numbers. I can point to Pennsylvania. Just since 2014, thousands of shootings—by one estimate I think over 7,700—but then, of course, the more ominous number is the number of people killed as a result of those shootings. In Pennsylvania, since 2014, some 2,072 people have died as a result of that larger number of shootings.

I think for the Nation, and I think, certainly, undoubtedly for me, maybe the most important or the most seminal day in this debate was in December of 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. The distinguished Senator from Connecticut, who joins us on the floor and started tonight with his remarks, remembers it better than probably any other Member of the Senate, other than his colleague in Connecticut and others who lived through it.

One of the questions I asked myself at the end of that weekend, after watching hours and hours of television coverage and reading a lot about it and then watching a news report on Sunday evening which tracked the pathway of the killer going to one classroom and killing 20 children—6-year-olds, 7-year-olds, first graders—after he had done that, he was on his way to another classroom. So I concluded from that, if he had more time, in addition to the 20 killed in one classroom and the adults who were killed, we would have been reading about potentially hundreds of children killed in one school in even less—a lot less than a day, maybe an hour or two or three, but that didn't happen. He took his own life.

So I began to ask myself not only what should we do in response to this—and I had concluded at that point to support legislation—but a larger question kept coming to mind. If one person, with one weapon or a few weapons and unlimited ammunition—if one person cannot only kill 20 children in Connecticut, I guess almost 50 people in Florida, and now we know from Las Vegas at least 58, and I am sure some who were injured will die—but if one person can do that, we have to ask ourselves, Is there nothing we can do? Because that becomes part of the debate, right?

One side says: Let's take action by way of legislation or take some action that would reduce the likelihood that we have more tragedies like this, more mass shootings, but the response immediately comes back that the other side says: We agree it is tragic, we agree we want to prevent it, we agree we want to reduce the likelihood, but there is nothing we can do legislatively to reduce the likelihood or to prevent it.

I don't think anyone would argue that a law that passes in the aftermath of this Las Vegas tragedy or a law that passes even in the aftermath of Sandy Hook Elementary School—if the law, the proposals, the bills, really, that were voted on in the Senate in 2013, if they had passed, no one can argue with certitude or with scientific precision

that if you pass this law, this many lives will be saved. After Newtown and after this tragedy, I come back to the same question: Is there nothing we can do legislatively? We are the most powerful country in the world. We led the world in winning World War II, a war that was not on its way to winning until we got involved, until we were forced to respond because we were attacked. We are the country that has cured disease and built the strongest Republic in the history of the human race; that has the strongest military, without a doubt; that has the strongest economy, without a doubt; that has so much in ways that we can point to of American exceptionalism and strength and achievement—achievements that are unmatched anywhere in the world in almost any part of American life that one can point to. Is that same country completely disabled from taking an action that would reduce the likelihood—and we would hope substantially reduce the likelihood—that we will not have another Las Vegas or another Orlando or another Newtown, and go on and on from there, all of these tragedies in all of these places? Is that really what our answer is going to be?

We take action when we are attacked, to fight back and to prevent it from happening again. We take action when there is an epidemic. We take action when there is a crisis. We take action when there is a natural disaster. We are seeing some of that most recently. We take action as a government. The Congress takes action. The executive takes action. Yet, in this circumstance, what can only be described as an epidemic—that might be an understatement—where we are losing more than 30,000 people a year, are we saying that there is nothing we can do legislatively to reduce that likelihood? I don't think any American, if they think about it, would conclude there is nothing we can do.

So when I considered that in the context of Sandy Hook, I had to ask myself: Are you saying to yourself that you are going to vote no on what became three bills, vote no on them because you believe there is nothing you can do? That is what your vote is going to be? That is going to be your response? As a legislator with the opportunity to cast a vote in a body of 100 people, you are going to say no three times, as it turned out in 2013, to legislation because you believe there is nothing your vote and nothing this legislative body can do?

Well, I decided to vote yes, at least, but even that is not enough. We haven't had votes in years on these issues. Here we are, almost 5 years later—in December it will be 5 years, half a decade—since Newtown, CT, since the massacre at Sandy Hook.

I have a page from the Wall Street Journal that was printed within a couple days of that tragedy. It had very small color pictures and very small biographies of those very small people,

those 6-year-olds and 7-year-olds. It has been on my desk all of these years, and it is a very yellowed copy of a newspaper article. I often think about what those families have gone through all of these years.

The great recording artist Bruce Springsteen had a song after September 11. The name of the song is "You're Missing." The refrain in that song, of course, is "You're missing," talking about someone, of course, who lost a loved one on 9/11. He says: "You're missing when I turn out the lights, you're missing when I close my eyes, and you're missing when I see the sun rise." The same could be said of those Newtown families, the same could be said of those families in Orlando, and now, unfortunately and tragically, the families in the Las Vegas area—and maybe well beyond Las Vegas—who were there for that concert.

I hope this will be an occasion not just for speeches and expressions of condolence and commendation for those who showed such bravery in this tragedy, or prayers and solidarity, but that this will be a time for action, meaning action in the context of debate and action in the context of legislation.

I think there are a number of steps we can take—I will not outline them all now—a number of commonsense steps we can take that are entirely consistent with the Second Amendment but would reduce the likelihood over time of having more and more of these tragedies or maybe, just maybe, taking action that will reduce the number of deaths. Even that would be substantial progress. I just cannot accept the idea that there is absolutely nothing we can do legislatively to reduce the likelihood—and I would hope substantially reduce the likelihood—of these tragedies so that we can prevent or at least reduce the number of tragedies.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY'S SALMON P. CHASE COLLEGE OF LAW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate a special anniversary in my home State. The Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University, NKU, is marking

its 125th year of educating students and helping them follow their dreams in the legal field.

Chase's story is one of transformation and innovation, and through it all, the school has produced graduates prepared to excel in the legal field. Originally founded in Ohio, Chase was only the third law school in the Nation to offer night programs. Since then, Chase has crossed the Ohio River into Kentucky, joined with NKU, and continued to find the best ways to grow as a respected institution.

Named after Salmon P. Chase, the sixth Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, the college is known as the Lawyer's School for its commitment to helping students be practice-ready upon graduation. Today Chase is a proud part of Kentucky's legal community. With graduates in a wide range of careers, including serving as Federal judges and as Members of Congress, Chase's impact has grown considerably since its founding. It is also the proud home to a nationally recognized moot court team and has led the Commonwealth in the bar exam passage rate in recent years.

These successes wouldn't be possible without the dedicated work of Chase's faculty, staff, and administration. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Jeffrey Standen, who serves as dean and professor at Chase. Under his leadership, Chase has continued its growth, innovation, and achievement. The school's distinguished faculty come from some of the highest levels of the bench and bar with the experiences and passion to prepare students for success in their careers. The school's alumni, more than 5,000 and counting, are using their skills in more than 47 States, in Washington DC, and around the globe.

I would also like to thank NKU's interim president Gerard St. Amand, a current professor and former dean of Chase himself, for his commitment to the university and his willingness to help guide the community.

Each time I have had the opportunity to engage with Chase students, I have noted their intellectual curiosity and their passion for the law.

The Chase College of Law has grown so much in the last 125 years, and it has become an integral part of Kentucky's legal community. I am proud to join with the Chase students, faculty, staff, administration, and alumni to commemorate this occasion. I urge my colleagues to help me celebrate Chase's quasiquintennial anniversary, and I look forward to many more years of accomplishments.

CONFIRMATION OF HEALTH TARBERT AND CFIUS REFORM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to congratulate Heath Tarbert, who was confirmed by the Senate last Wednesday and will soon be serving as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Markets and Development,

and also to talk about reform legislation that relates to his new area of responsibility. I was pleased to support Mr. Tarbert's nomination, along with the vast majority of my Senate colleagues. He has held a number of important positions in all three branches of the Federal Government, including his service as a special counsel to the Senate Banking Committee during the negotiations leading to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; an associate counsel to the President of the United States during the global financial crisis; and a law clerk for the Supreme Court of the United States. He is an experienced lawyer and financial expert who will be a valuable asset to the Treasury Department. While his new position may not be well known to many outside of the Beltway, it is vitally important to safeguarding our national security interests, as Chairman Crapo of the Senate Banking Committee attested to when Mr. Tarbert was voted out of committee in near-unanimous fashion in May. I have no doubt of Mr. Tarbert's qualifications to take on this key role, and given that only one Member voted against his nomination, it is clear that there is a bipartisan consensus on that point.

With that being said, I look forward to working closely with him on some important reforms that are desperately needed to protect our national security and modernize the way we screen foreign investment deals for those risks. Specifically I am referring to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, better known as CFIUS. As you may know, Mr. Tarbert will now be charged with overseeing the vetting of hundreds of proposed investments annually. I am confident that Mr. Tarbert will make effective use of the tools and authorities that CFIUS has. Unfortunately, those current tools and authorities are not adequate, in light of the changing national security landscape. There are clear gaps in the CFIUS process, which nations such as China are exploiting on a daily basis. The reason for this is simple: CFIUS was not designed to stop investment-driven technology transfers, and unfortunately, many such transactions are occurring today that are carefully designed to sidestep CFIUS's limited jurisdiction.

The need to close these gaps has garnered support from Republicans and Democrats alike, something that is seemingly rare in Washington these days. In fact, there is a bipartisan effort coming together right now to introduce legislation that would modernize the CFIUS process for the first time in a decade. Such commonsense reforms should be made to heighten scrutiny on certain types of investments, especially from countries such as China that pose a potential threat to U.S. national security interests. At a minimum, we should expand the types of transactions that fall under CFIUS jurisdiction, including joint

ventures and minority-position investments, as well as certain real estate transactions in close proximity to military bases and other sensitive national security facilities.

My legislation, the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act, or FIRRMA, will do just that, and I intend to file it in the next few weeks. It will address the aforementioned gaps in the current CFIUS process and will help protect our national security. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and support these commonsense reforms for the sake of our long-term national security.

(At the request of Mr. McCONNELL, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I want to express my sincere condolences to the victims of the shooting in Las Vegas, NV.

As a lifelong Nevadan, I am overcome with sadness and grief by this senseless massacre, in which a gunman opened fire on more than 22,000 innocent concertgoers, killing more than 50 people and injuring more than 500 individuals.

Nevada's communities are all in mourning, and some of our loved ones and friends have been personally impacted by this carnage.

I stand beside Nevada as they reel from this heinous, wide-scale tragedy, working to ensure that my State has the resources it needs to recover from this senseless act of violence. For these reasons, I must be with the people of Nevada right now.

I have a commitment to serve my constituents and will continue to work tirelessly on the ground with the people of Las Vegas ensuring that they have resources to recover and rebuild as a community.

My sincerest gratitude goes out to our first responders, local medical staff, and police officers for their swift actions and efforts that without a doubt, saved numerous lives. I also would like to recognize the countless Nevadans at the show who aided strangers in need and the wounded, using tourniquets and carrying people to safety, as the shooting continued.

I have been in contact with the White House, Governor Sandoval, Mayor Carolyn Goodman, and Sheriff Joseph Lombardo and stand ready to assist Clark County Commission Chair Steve Sisolak and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. I will continue to monitor the situation as this horrific event unfolds.

Lynne and I are praying for all of the victims and their families who are experiencing immense pain and grave, shocking loss that cannot be measured.

Nevada is our home, and I know it will rise again from this perilous day.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall

vote No. 209, on the nomination of Ajit Varadaraj Pai, of Kansas, to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

CONFIRMATION OF AJIT PAI

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I had every intention of ably performing my duty as Senator and voting today on the confirmation of Mr. Ajit Pai to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission. Unfortunately, the tragic events in Las Vegas last night required me to travel back to my home State. My thought and prayers are with the families of those killed and wounded in the vicious and senseless attack outside the Mandalay Bay Resort.

On the question of Mr. Pai's nomination, I wanted to make my vote in opposition to his confirmation clear. Many of the specific actions taken by Mr. Pai as Chairman of the FCC have raised questions about whether he should garner my support for another term at the Commission. I have come to this decision through a process of reviewing his resume, meeting with him personally to discuss his governing perspective, as well as having questioned him during multiple FCC hearings before the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

I will continue to keep an open mind in working with Mr. Pai to bridge the digital divide in remote parts of Nevada and for my constituents who simply need more access to complete their homework, apply for jobs, or perform various everyday functions that require quality internet service. At this time, there were too many concerns about actions taken in Mr. Pai's tenure since January, including the process by which he is looking to reform a free and open internet.●

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-44, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Commonwealth of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$815 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-44

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$661 million.

Other \$154 million.

Total \$815 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to three thousand nine hundred (3,900) GBU-53/B Small Diameter Bomb Increment II (SDB II).

Up to thirty (30) GBU-53/B Guided Test Vehicles (GTV).

Up to sixty (60) GBU-53/B Captive Carry Reliability Trainers (CCRT).

Non-MDE: Also included in this sale are Weapon Load Crew Trainers (WLCT), Practical Explosive Ordinance Disposal Trainers (PEST), containers, support and ground crew test equipment, site survey, transportation, warranties, repair and return, maintenance, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor representative engineering, logistics, and technical support services, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (X7-D-YAH).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc.: Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 29, 2017.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—GBU-53/B Small Diameter Bomb Increment II (SDB II)

The Government of Australia has requested a possible sale of up to three thousand nine hundred (3,900) GBU-53/B Small Diameter Bomb Increment II (SDB II), up to thirty (30) GBU-53/B Guided Test Vehicles (GTV), up to sixty (60) GBU-53/B Captive Carry Reliability Trainers (CCRT). Also included in this sale are Weapon Load Crew Trainers (WLCT), Practical Explosive Ordinance Disposal Trainers (PEST), containers, support and ground crew test equipment, site survey, transportation, warranties, repair and return, maintenance, publications and technical documentation, personnel training

and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor representative engineering, logistics, and technical support services, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total case value is \$815 million.

This sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major non-NATO ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Western Pacific. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale of SDB II supports and complements the ongoing sale of the F-35A to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). This capability will strengthen combined operations, particularly air to ground strike missions in all-weather conditions, and increase interoperability between the United States and the RAAF. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale will improve Australia's F-35 survivability and will enhance its capability to deter global threats, strengthen its homeland defense and cooperate in coalition defense initiatives.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missile Systems, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government personnel or contractor representatives to Australia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-44

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The GBU-53/B Small Diameter Bomb Increment H (SDB II) is a 250-lb class precision-guided air-to-ground munition used to defeat moving or mobile targets through adverse weather from standoff range. SDB II has deployable wings and fins and uses Inertial Navigation System/Global Positioning System (INS/GPS) guidance, network-enabled datalink, (Link-16 and UHF) and a multi-mode seeker to autonomously search, acquire, track, and defeat targets from a standoff range. SDB II employs a multi-effects warhead for maximum lethality against armored and soft targets. Sensitive areas include operating manuals and maintenance technical orders containing performance information, operating and test procedures, and other information related to support operations and repair. The GBU-53/B SDB II hardware, including guidance, multi-mode seeker, and datalink, is UNCLASSIFIED. The software is UNCLASSIFIED.

a. SDB II Guided Test Vehicles (GTV) are telemetry test vehicles used for land or sea range based testing of the SDB II weapons system. The GTV have common flight characteristics of an SDB H but with an inert warhead. In place of the multi-effects warhead is a Flight Termination, Tracking, and Telemetry (FTTT) subassembly that mirrors the multi-effects warhead's size and mass properties, but provides safety flight termination, free flight tracking and telemetry, and transmission of encrypted data from the vehicle to the ground. The SDB II GTV can have either inert or live fuses. All other flight control, guidance, data-link, and seek-

er functions are representative of the SDB II. The hardware, including guidance, multi-mode seeker, and datalink, is UNCLASSIFIED. The software is UNCLASSIFIED.

b. SDB II Captive Carry Reliability Test (CCRT) vehicles are SDB II variants primarily used for captive flight reliability testing. The CCRT has common characteristics of an SDB II but with an inert warhead and fuze. The CCRT does not have an FTTT subassembly in place of the warhead; it instead uses ballast to mimic the warhead's mass properties. The CCRT is a flight capable representative of the SDB II and, although not its primary objective, could be dropped as a test round on ranges not requiring telemetry, digital tracking, or a Flight Termination System (FTS). All other flight control, guidance, data-link, and seeker functions are representative of the SDB II. The hardware, including guidance, multi-mode seeker, and datalink, is UNCLASSIFIED. The software is UNCLASSIFIED.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary obtains knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. A determination has been made that the Commonwealth of Australia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Commonwealth of Australia.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to voice my support for the victims of the horrific mass shooting in Las Vegas.

This mass shooting was the worst in our Nation's history. There are more than 50 dead and more than 500 wounded.

It should shock every American that one individual, with easy access to weapons and ammunition, can inflict such devastation.

Sadly, it was only a little more than a year ago that we also experienced what had then been the worst mass shooting in our Nation's history. That was when 49 people who were enjoying an evening of dancing with friends and loved ones were massacred in Orlando.

Just 6 months before that, 14 people were killed and more than 20 injured in San Bernardino.

Two years ago, on October 1, 2015, an assistant professor and eight students were murdered at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, OR.

In 2013, 12 people were fatally shot at the Navy Yard, less than 2 miles from where I stand today.

On December 14, 2012, 20 children had their lives taken at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

These massacres have not and will not stop unless we do something. I believe we must acknowledge that these shootings are possible because of our Nation's weak gun laws.

Our laws permit criminal and domestic abusers to easily obtain weapons at gunshows and on the internet without a basic background check.

We know background checks work. States that require background checks on private handgun sales see fewer women killed by their partners and fewer law enforcement officers killed with handguns.

It is time we expand background checks to cover sales at gunshows and on the Internet.

We are still learning about what happened in Las Vegas, but we do know that the shooter had more than 10 rifles in his hotel room and that he may have used an assault weapon.

Today in the United States, military-style assault weapons may be sold legally to civilians. Assault weapons are not needed for either hunting or self-defense.

They are weapons of war designed to kill large numbers of people in close quarters.

This is not sustainable—and the public agrees. Just last year, a poll showed that 57 percent of Americans favor a ban on assault weapons.

In fact, from 1994 and 2004, we had laws that prohibited anyone from getting an assault weapon. I believed then and I believe now that those laws made all of us safer.

Unfortunately, right when the positive effects of those laws were taking effect, they were allowed to expire. Now, time and again, we have felt the costs of our inaction.

It is time that we finally take steps to ensure that other communities do not experience the pain that Sandy Hook, Washington, San Bernardino, Roseburg, Orlando, and now Las Vegas have gone through.

I hope my colleagues will join me in remembering the victims of this attack and will support legislation to prevent any of us from once again having to rise to remember what will be another worst mass shooting in our Nation's history.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE AFL-CIO

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Connecticut State Labor Council AFL-CIO as they celebrate 60 years of extraordinary and exemplary advocacy on behalf of Connecticut workers and their families.

Since its formation in 1957 with the merging of the Connecticut Federation of Labor and the Connecticut State Industrial Union Council, the Connecticut State AFL-CIO has demonstrated an impressive dedication to the wellbeing of workers across the State. The organization seeks fair and equal treatment for workers through collective bargaining on their behalf and promoting legislation to create

good jobs and provide people with the skills needed for them.

Simply, they strengthen the middle class, allowing tens of thousands of people to own a home, raise their families, and retire with financial security.

Uniting workers and their families toward these common goals, the Connecticut AFL-CIO has fought continuously and ceaselessly for better wages, benefits, and conditions for the working families of the State. Throughout its six decades, the Connecticut AFL-CIO has facilitated union member access to insurance plans, credit cards, and beneficial mortgage programs.

Always looking for ways to raise the standard of living for our middle-class workers, the Connecticut AFL-CIO was one of the early leaders in the fight to achieve affordable and accessible quality healthcare, pay equity, and parental and medical leave for all employees. The Connecticut AFL-CIO also helps those who have lost their jobs, supporting fair unemployment compensation laws and education and job training programs.

Since its formation, the Connecticut AFL-CIO continuously puts the needs of workers and their families first. I applaud their numerous achievements and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Connecticut State AFL-CIO on 60 years of service and commitment to Connecticut employees. •

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BOBBI DOORENBOS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate an exceptional airman, Brig. Gen. Bobbi Doorenbos, on her selection for promotion to the rank of brigadier general in the Air National Guard. This promotion means she will leave behind her role as commander of the Arkansas Air National Guard's 188th Wing in Fort Smith, AR, to assume her new responsibilities in Washington, DC, as part of the leadership team within the Pentagon's Total Force Continuum Office.

Brigadier General Doorenbos clearly epitomizes the finest qualities of a military leader as evidenced by her distinguished career. After graduating from Iowa State University, she entered the U.S. Air Force in 1995 and initially served as an F-16 pilot in the Iowa Air National Guard's 185th Fighter Wing. She continued her honorable service by holding various positions in the Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia areas, including Air National Guard Crisis Action Team member; White House Fellow; executive officer/speechwriter for the Air National Guard Director; chief of Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance; special adviser to Vice President Joe Biden for Defense Policy and Intelligence Programs; and chief of program requirements and integration at the National Guard Bureau. She has flown combat missions in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Southern Watch,

and Iraqi Freedom. Brigadier General Doorenbos is also a senior pilot with more than 1,200 flight hours in the F-16C Fighting Falcon and MQ-1B Predator.

She is truly a trailblazer. As the first female to command the 188th Wing at Ebbing Air National Guard Base in Arkansas, she simultaneously held the title of air commander with responsibility for over 1,000 Federal technicians, Active Guard, and Reserve members in the execution of three distinct mission sets: remotely piloted aircraft; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations; and targeting. Her wing in comprised of the most dedicated, loyal, and highly trained airmen that the National Guard has to offer. As a team, they have taken immense pride in fulfilling their roles and obligations to the State of Arkansas and to the Nation. As a testament of Brigadier General Doorenbos's superior leadership, the 188th Wing was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its incredible accomplishments during her tenure as wing commander.

Brigadier General Doorenbos has displayed an extraordinary amount of dedication and passion throughout her life and career. As a mother of three daughters, it is my pleasure to watch Brigadier General Doorenbos excel in her career and show young women that they are capable of achieving anything. She will continue to be a major asset to the U.S. Air Force in her new role at the Pentagon.

I want to extend my sincere congratulations to her on this well-deserved promotion. I am very proud of her many accomplishments and wish her all the best in her future service to our country. •

TRIBUTE TO STEVE FARNHAM

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the service of an extraordinary individual in northern Maine. Mr. Stephen M. Farnham, of Mapleton, has been a driving force behind the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging. Steve began with the Aroostook agency in its infancy in the mid-1970s and is stepping down after having led the agency for the last 40 years.

Steve attended the University of Maine in Presque Isle, where he earned his bachelor of arts and went on to earn his master of public administration degree from the University of Maine in Orono. He also received a number of certificates and attended specialized courses that helped him continuously improve services and collaboration at the agency. While serving as an adjunct professor, he taught courses at public and private institutions in Maine, as well as health and safety courses with the American Red Cross. He also held many different positions with the Katahdin Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, for which he has been recognized with multiple awards.

As chief executive officer of the not-for-profit corporation Aroostook Area

Agency on Aging, Steve oversaw its expansion to 140 employees, an annual budget of \$3.4 million, and the responsibility for a congregate housing project which the agency developed, owned, and managed. His professional appointments and boards on which he served insured that the State of Maine, as well as the Nation, were able to capitalize on his expertise on aging related policies. These ranged from being a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging three times, serving with the Federal Council on Aging, and helping incorporate, lead, and direct the Aroostook Regional Transportation System.

In addition to the entities already mentioned, Steve also served his hometown on the budget committee and has received a number of meritorious awards, including the Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award, the Maine State Bar Association John Ballou Distinguished Service Award, and was named a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow. Despite all the very public recognition for a job well done at work and beyond, the most telling recognition is the strength of the programs and the high praise by clients and collaborators. Steve is universally respected, well-loved, and will be greatly missed, but the solid structure that he put in place and strengthened over the years will stand. I thank Steve both for his work at the helm of the Area Agency on Aging and his work serving communities across Aroostook County.●

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALASKA QUARTERLY REVIEW

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize one of our Nation's finest literary journals, the Alaska Quarterly Review, now marking its 35th year of literary excellence.

Alaska Quarterly Review was first published in 1982 at the University of Alaska Anchorage and has evolved to be a joint publication of the university and the Center for Narrative and Lyric Arts. From the beginning, it was designed to highlight the work of strong literary voices from Alaska and beyond. Publishing fiction, short plays, poetry, photo essays, and literary non-fiction, the journal has an especially strong commitment to promote new and emerging writers.

The founding editor and editor-in-chief of Alaska Quarterly Review, Ronald Spatz, envisioned the journal as a way to break through stereotypes and present Alaska to the greater literary community. That goal was far surpassed, as Alaska Quarterly Review has won accolades from some of the most prestigious reviewers and publications in the country. Pulitzer Prize-winning critic Michael Dirda wrote in *The New York Review of Books* that the Alaska Quarterly Review "remains one of our best, and most imaginative, literary magazines." *The New York Times Book Review* labeled it "fresh treasure."

Alaska Quarterly Review has also been featured and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Alaska Humanities Forum, Alaska State Council on the Arts, and the Rasmussen Foundation, and honored by Alaska Center for the Book and others. A number of works originally published in the journal have been subsequently selected for inclusion in *The Best American Essays*, *The Best American Poetry*, *The Best American Mystery Stories*, *The Best Creative Nonfiction*, *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *Prize Stories*, *The O. Henry Awards*, *The Beacon Best*, and *The Pushcart Prize*; *The Best of the Small Presses*.

In addition to its literary influence on the national level, Alaska Quarterly Review brings a strong focus to the development and importance of Alaska Native and indigenous literatures. Alaska Native language survival and resilience are portrayed as a national and global concern.

Mr. Spatz writes that Alaska Quarterly Review "has been and is of Alaska but not Alaskan. We have a global perspective, and, although we have published primarily American authors, our writers hail from a wide range of nations." The journal's 35th anniversary observance in October reaches across the Pacific Ocean by featuring "In the Footprint of the Crocodile Man: Memories, Myths and Contemporary Art of the Sepik River, Papua New Guinea," a reflection of the commonalities of human experience. At the same event, the universal elements of birth and language are celebrated in a beautiful film, "Shaawatke's Birth," performed in English and Tlingit, one of Alaska's precious indigenous languages.

The impact of Alaska Quarterly Review extends far from its origins in my home State and is worthy of celebration by this body and all Americans who recognize the power of the literary arts to shape our thoughts, our ideals, and our country. I commend Alaska Quarterly Review and its editor, Ronald Spatz, its contributors, and its supporters for 35 years of excellence. I hope for many more to come.●

REMEMBERING ALTO "BUD" ADAMS, JR.

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the legacy of an extraordinary Floridian and friend who passed away this past weekend.

Alto "Bud" Adams, Jr., owner of Adams Ranch, died this weekend at age 91. Born in Fort Pierce, FL, in 1926, Bud was known in Florida and around the Nation for developing the Braford breed, a new breed of heavy-yielding cattle, crossed between the Herefords and the Brahmins, that was better able to handle the heat of south Florida.

For 75 years, Bud Adams tended the family-owned Adams Ranch, which has grown to 50,000 acres of land across St. Lucie, Madison, Okeechobee, and Osceola Counties.

The family's land is home to one of the largest cow-calf ranches in the country. This land was also one of the first sets of conservation easements to be added to the Everglades. Today thousands of acres of Adams Ranch land have been placed into permanent land trust, including part of the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Areas.

Adams Ranch was first purchased in 1937 for \$1.50 an acre by Bud's father, Florida Supreme Court Judge Alto Adams, Sr.

Since then, Adams Ranch has received multiple environmental awards from Audubon Florida, the Farmers Conservation Alliance, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association for the owners' leadership in land, water, and wildlife management.

Bud was also honored with the Pete Hegener Leadership Award by the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, an honor presented every year to a dedicated business leader who makes a significant contribution to St. Lucie County's economy and quality of life.

Bud Adams was not just a cattleman and businessman; he was a devoted environmental conservationist and a philanthropist. Bud founded the United Way of St. Lucie County and supported causes like the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery and Heathcote Botanical Gardens. He also sat on the board of the Indian River State College Foundation.

In Bud's own words, "It is not enough for us to just do a good job breeding and caring for cattle. We must have a more holistic approach that keeps man, cattle, wildlife, and the land in a relationship that is profitable, productive and can be continued indefinitely."

Bud showed us what it truly meant to be an environmental steward and a cowboy. He always took pride in his management of land, water, and wildlife, and Florida is better because of it.

I extend my deepest condolences to his family, particularly his wife, Dorothy. He is also survived by his sister Elaine Harrison; his children Alto Lee Adams, III, and his wife, Cindy, Michael L. Adams and his wife, Rachael, and Robert Adams and his wife, Cindee; his grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.●

37TH ANNIVERSARY OF "I LOVE LIFE" RADIO SHOW

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize one of radio broadcasting's longest running shows, "I Love Life." Created by South Dakota native, Jerry Dahmen, the show has hosted several of country music's biggest stars and been featured on a number of local and national television programs.

Since the program began airing on KXRB Radio in Sioux Falls, the show has featured more than 1,600 guests who have shared inspirational stories of what it takes to turn adversity into victory. "I Love Life" has also given

back to the community by providing donations from book and CD sales.

I offer my congratulations to Jerry Dahmen and wish the show continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 29, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2519. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

H.R. 3823. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to provide disaster tax relief, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled bills were signed on September 29, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. McCONNELL).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1894. A bill to exempt Puerto Rico from the coastwise laws of the United States (commonly known as the "Jones Act").

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on September 28, 2017, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1141. An act to ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on September 29, 2017, she had pre-

sented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 327. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes.

S. 1866. An act to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for the reallocation rules and authority to extend the deadline by which funds have to be reallocated in the campus-based aid programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965 due to Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Maria, to provide equitable services to children and teachers in private schools, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ROBERTS for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Stephen Censky, of Missouri, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

*Ted McKinney, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1901. A bill to require global economic and political pressure to support diplomatic denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, including through the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and any enablers of the activities of that Government, and to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LEE, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 1902. A bill to specify the state of mind required for conviction for criminal offenses that lack an expressly identified state of mind, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 1903. A bill to assist communities affected by stranded nuclear waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 1904. A bill to promote the use of smart technologies and systems in communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1905. A bill to increase the number of States that may conduct Medicaid demonstration programs to improve access to community mental health services; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. NELSON, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 278. A resolution expressing condolences to the victims of Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Maria, commending the resiliency of the people of Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands, and expressing gratitude to other neighboring States willing to stand by the people of the affected areas during the relief and recovery efforts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 538

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 538, a bill to clarify research and development for wood products, and for other purposes.

S. 548

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 548, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 794

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 794, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act in order to improve the process whereby Medicare administrative contractors issue local coverage determinations under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 928, a bill to prohibit, as an unfair or deceptive act or practice, commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 1050

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1050, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals.

S. 1157

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1157, a bill to establish the Vulnerability Equities Review Board, and for other purposes.

S. 1162

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1162, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

S. 1301

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1522

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1522, a bill to establish an Every Kid Outdoors program, and for other purposes.

S. 1718

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1718, a bill to authorize the minting of a coin in honor of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1738, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a home infusion therapy services temporary transitional payment under the Medicare program.

S. 1754

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1754, a bill to reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1766

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1766, a bill to reauthorize the SAFER Act of 2013, and for other purposes.

S. 1768

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1768, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1783

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Min-

nesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1783, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require each State to implement a process under which individuals who are 16 years of age may apply to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, to direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants to States to increase the involvement of minors in public election activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1803

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1803, a bill to improve medical research on marijuana.

S. 1808

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1808, a bill to extend temporarily the Federal Perkins Loan program, and for other purposes.

S. 1816

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1816, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to enhance fraud alert procedures and provide free access to credit freezes, and for other purposes.

S. 1827

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1827, a bill to extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1829, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to extend the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.

S. 1838

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1838, a bill to repeal the authority under the National Labor Relations Act for States to enact laws prohibiting agreements requiring membership in a labor organization as a condition of employment, and for other purposes.

S. 1868

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1868, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax credits for energy storage technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 1895

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms.

HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1895, a bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 19, a concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 278—EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE HARVEY, HURRICANE IRMA, AND HURRICANE MARIA, COMMENDING THE RESILIENCY OF THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS, LOUISIANA, FLORIDA, PUERTO RICO, AND THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS, AND EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO OTHER NEIGHBORING STATES WILLING TO STAND BY THE PEOPLE OF THE AFFECTED AREAS DURING THE RELIEF AND RECOVERY EFFORTS

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. NELSON, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 278

Whereas, in August and September of 2017, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma reached the shores of the United States and wreaked havoc on the States of Texas, Louisiana, and Florida;

Whereas, in September of 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands;

Whereas, as a result of these hurricanes, a major Federal disaster was declared for Texas on August 25, 2017, for the United States Virgin Islands on September 7, 2017, and for Florida and Puerto Rico on September 10, 2017;

Whereas a Federal emergency was declared for Louisiana on August 28, 2017;

Whereas, as of September 2017, Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria have been responsible for the deaths of more than 150 individuals;

Whereas, as a result of Hurricane Harvey—

(1) many communities in Texas and Louisiana were flooded and without electrical power for extended periods of time and an entire city in Texas, with a population of 118,000, lost access to drinking water;

(2) some weather gauges in the State of Texas measured more than 50 inches of rainfall between the evening of Thursday, August 24, 2017, and the afternoon of Tuesday, August 29, 2017;

(3) more than 4,500,000,000,000 liters of water fell in Harris County in Texas in only 100 hours;

(4) in the State of Texas alone, more than 130,000 residences were destroyed; and

(5) more than 1,000,000 vehicles in Texas were destroyed;

Whereas, as a result of Hurricane Irma—

(1) nearly 13,000,000 people in Florida were left without electrical power;

(2) an estimated 90 percent of the homes in the Florida Keys were damaged or destroyed;

(3) Florida's \$8,600,000,000 citrus industry faces crop losses of 70 percent, with some growers experiencing losses of 90 percent or more;

(4) the maritime culture of Florida has been severely impacted, including—

(A) the disruption of commercial fishing, trapping, and aquaculture;

(B) the loss of recreational fishing opportunities for residents and tourists;

(C) widespread debris limiting safe navigation in waterways and channels; and

(D) reports of more than 850 displaced or sunken vessels; and

(5) property insurance claims in Florida have exceeded \$3,600,000,000 and are still rising;

Whereas the Federal Emergency Management Agency has estimated that flood damage claims as a result of these 3 hurricanes could total several billion dollars;

Whereas refinery closures along the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Harvey resulted in a temporary loss of 20 percent of the capacity of the United States to refine crude oil into gasoline, diesel, and other fuels;

Whereas, as a result of Hurricane Maria—

(1) some parts of Puerto Rico may be without electrical power for 6 months;

(2) more than 1,500,000 individuals were left without access to clean drinking water;

(3) critical infrastructure was damaged, hindering recovery efforts;

(4) thousands of residents of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands face an extreme housing crisis; and

(5) approximately 80 percent of the agricultural crop value in Puerto Rico was destroyed, with an estimated \$780,000,000 loss in agricultural yields;

Whereas the devastation of these 3 hurricanes, which caused a disruption in the distribution of gasoline, has been felt on a global scale; and

Whereas, after these 3 hurricanes—

(1) numerous localities in all of the affected areas were forced to close schools due to power outages and dangerous road conditions;

(2) flights were cancelled in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands;

(3) doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel worked expeditiously to provide care and ensure that patients were safe under extreme circumstances;

(4) hospitals, medical centers, and triage units provided needed care;

(5) volunteer organizations and charities supplied hurricane victims with food, water, and shelter;

(6) immediate humanitarian aid and long-term rebuilding assistance is needed in the many devastated regions; and

(7) thousands of volunteers and Federal, State, and local government employees from across the United States committed time and resources to help with recovery efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses condolences to the victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria;

(2) commends the resiliency and courage of the people of Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands;

(3) applauds the work and commitment of emergency responders and law enforcement officers on the ground in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria; and

(4) commits to provide the necessary resources to stand by the people of Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands as they rebuild their communities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1109. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1616, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1109. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1616, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 381 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 822. NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized for fiscal years 2017 through 2022 within the United States Secret Service a National Computer Forensics Institute (in this section referred to as the ‘Institute’). The Institute shall disseminate information related to the investigation and prevention of cyber and electronic crime and related threats, and educate, train, and equip State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges.

“(b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Institute shall include the following:

“(1) Educating State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges on current—

“(A) cyber and electronic crimes and related threats;

“(B) methods for investigating cyber and electronic crime and related threats and conducting computer and mobile device forensic examinations; and

“(C) prosecutorial and judicial challenges related to cyber and electronic crime and related threats, and computer and mobile device forensic examinations.

“(2) Training State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers to—

“(A) conduct cyber and electronic crime and related threat investigations;

“(B) conduct computer and mobile device forensic examinations; and

“(C) respond to network intrusion incidents.

“(3) Training State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges on methods to obtain, process, store, and admit digital evidence in court.

“(c) PRINCIPLES.—In carrying out the functions specified in subsection (b), the Institute shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that timely, actionable, and relevant expertise and information related to cyber and electronic crime and related threats is shared with State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers and prosecutors.

“(d) EQUIPMENT.—The Institute may provide State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers with computer equipment, hardware, software, manuals, and tools necessary to conduct cyber and electronic crime and related threat investiga-

tions and computer and mobile device forensic examinations.

“(e) ELECTRONIC CRIME TASK FORCES.—The Institute shall facilitate the expansion of the network of Electronic Crime Task Forces of the United States Secret Service through the addition of State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers educated and trained at the Institute.

“(f) SAVINGS PROVISION.—All authorized activities and functions carried out by the Institute at any location as of the day before the date of the enactment of this section are authorized to continue to be carried out at any such location on and after such date.”.

(b) FUNDING.—For each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022, amounts appropriated for United States Secret Service, Operations and Support, may be used to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 821 the following new item:

“Sec. 822. National Computer Forensics Institute.”.

SEC. 3. PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF ECONOMIC, HIGH TECHNOLOGY, INTERNET, AND OTHER WHITE COLLAR CRIME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART MM—PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF WHITE COLLAR CRIME

“SEC. 3030. SHORT TITLE.

“This part may be cited as the ‘National White Collar Crime Control Act of 2017’.

“SEC. 3031. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with or make a grant to an eligible entity for the purpose of improving the identification, investigation, and prosecution of white collar crime (including each category of such crimes set forth in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b)) by providing comprehensive, direct, and practical training and technical assistance to law enforcement officers, investigators, auditors and prosecutors in States and units of local government.

“(b) WHITE COLLAR CRIME DEFINED.—For purposes of this part, the term ‘white collar crime’ includes—

“(1) high-tech crime, including cyber and electronic crime and related threats;

“(2) economic crime, including financial fraud and mortgage fraud; and

“(3) Internet-based crime against children and child pornography.

“SEC. 3032. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this part include the following:

“(1) To ensure that training is available for State, local, tribal and territorial law enforcement agencies and officers nationwide to support local efforts to identify, prevent, investigate, and prosecute cyber and financial crimes, including those crimes facilitated via computer networks and other electronic means, and crimes involving financial and economic impacts such as intellectual property crimes.

“(2) To deliver training to State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, and other criminal justice professionals concerning the use of proven methodologies to prevent, detect, and respond to such crimes, recognize emerging issues, manage electronic and financial crime evidence and to improve local criminal justice agency responses to such threats.

“(3) To provide operational and technical assistance and training concerning tools, products, resources, guidelines, and procedures to aid and enhance criminal intelligence analysis, conduct cyber crime and financial crime investigations, and related justice information sharing at the local and State levels.

“(4) To provide appropriate training on protections for privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties in the conduct of criminal intelligence analysis and cyber and electronic crime and financial crime investigations, including in the development of policies, guidelines, and procedures by State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies to protect and enhance privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protections and identify weaknesses and gaps in the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

“SEC. 3033. AUTHORIZED PROGRAMS.

“A grant or cooperative agreement awarded under this part may be made only for the following programs, with respect to the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of certain criminal activities:

“(1) Programs to provide a nationwide support system for State and local criminal justice agencies.

“(2) Programs to assist State and local criminal justice agencies to develop, establish, and maintain intelligence-focused policing strategies and related information sharing.

“(3) Programs to provide training and investigative support services to State and local criminal justice agencies to provide such agencies with skills and resources needed to investigate and prosecute such criminal activities and related criminal activities.

“(4) Programs to provide research support, to establish partnerships, and to provide other resources to aid State and local criminal justice agencies to prevent, investigate, and prosecute such criminal activities and related problems.

“(5) Programs to provide information and research to the general public to facilitate the prevention of such criminal activities.

“(6) Programs to establish or support national training and research centers regionally to provide training and research services for State and local criminal justice agencies.

“(7) Programs to provide training and oversight to State and local criminal justice agencies to develop and comply with applicable privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties related policies, procedures, rules, laws, and guidelines.

“(8) Any other programs specified by the Attorney General as furthering the purposes of this part.

“SEC. 3034. APPLICATION.

“To be eligible for an award of a grant or cooperative agreement under this part, an entity shall submit to the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance an application in such form and manner, and containing such information, as required by the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

“SEC. 3035. ELIGIBILITY.

“States, units of local government, not-for-profit entities, and institutions of higher education with demonstrated capacity and experience in delivering training, technical assistance and other resources including direct, practical laboratory training to law enforcement officers, investigators, auditors and prosecutors in States and units of local government and over the Internet shall be eligible to receive an award under this part.

“SEC. 3036. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

“The Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out this part, including rules and regulations for sub-

mitting and reviewing applications under section 3035.”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated \$13,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022 to carry out —

(1) part MM of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by subsection (a); and

(2) section 401(b) of the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (34 U.S.C. 30103(b)).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 1 request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 5:45 p.m., in S-216, Capitol (President's Room), in order to conduct a business meeting to report the following nominations: Stephen Censky, of Missouri, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Ted McKinney, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1894

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1894) to exempt Puerto Rico from the coastwise laws of the United States (commonly known as the “Jones Act”).

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

MAKING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN MARINE FISH CONSERVATION STATUTES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 224, S. 396.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 396) to make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes, and for other purposes.

There being no objection the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 396) was passed, as follows:

S. 396

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. BILLFISH CONSERVATION ACT OF 2012.

Section 4(c)(1) of the Billfish Conservation Act of 2012 (16 U.S.C. 1827a(c)(1)) is amended by inserting “and retained” after “landed”.

SEC. 2. SHARK CONSERVATION ACT OF 2010.

The Act entitled “An Act to amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the conservation of sharks”, approved January 4, 2011 (Public Law 111-348; 124 Stat. 3668), is amended—

(1) by striking section 104 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 104. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

“Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall be construed as affecting, altering, or diminishing in any way the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to establish such conservation and management measures as the Secretary considers necessary and appropriate under sections 302(a)(3) and 304(g) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(3), 1854(g)).”; and

(2) in section 1, by striking the item relating to section 104 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 104. Rule of construction.”.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STRENGTHENING STATE AND LOCAL CYBER CRIME FIGHTING ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1616 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1616) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, and the bill, as

amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1109) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 381 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 822. NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized for fiscal years 2017 through 2022 within the United States Secret Service a National Computer Forensics Institute (in this section referred to as the ‘Institute’). The Institute shall disseminate information related to the investigation and prevention of cyber and electronic crime and related threats, and educate, train, and equip State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges.

“(b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Institute shall include the following:

“(1) Educating State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges on current—

“(A) cyber and electronic crimes and related threats;

“(B) methods for investigating cyber and electronic crime and related threats and conducting computer and mobile device forensic examinations; and

“(C) prosecutorial and judicial challenges related to cyber and electronic crime and related threats, and computer and mobile device forensic examinations.

“(2) Training State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers to—

“(A) conduct cyber and electronic crime and related threat investigations;

“(B) conduct computer and mobile device forensic examinations; and

“(C) respond to network intrusion incidents.

“(3) Training State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges on methods to obtain, process, store, and admit digital evidence in court.

“(c) PRINCIPLES.—In carrying out the functions specified in subsection (b), the Institute shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that timely, actionable, and relevant expertise and information related to cyber and electronic crime and related threats is shared with State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers and prosecutors.

“(d) EQUIPMENT.—The Institute may provide State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers with computer equipment, hardware, software, manuals, and tools necessary to conduct cyber and electronic crime and related threat investigations and computer and mobile device forensic examinations.

“(e) ELECTRONIC CRIME TASK FORCES.—The Institute shall facilitate the expansion of the network of Electronic Crime Task Forces of the United States Secret Service through the addition of State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers educated and trained at the Institute.

“(f) SAVINGS PROVISION.—All authorized activities and functions carried out by the In-

stitute at any location as of the day before the date of the enactment of this section are authorized to continue to be carried out at any such location on and after such date.”.

(b) FUNDING.—For each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022, amounts appropriated for United States Secret Service, Operations and Support, may be used to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 821 the following new item:

“Sec. 822. National Computer Forensics Institute.”.

SEC. 3. PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF ECONOMIC, HIGH TECHNOLOGY, INTERNET, AND OTHER WHITE COLLAR CRIME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART MM—PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION, AND PROSECUTION OF WHITE COLLAR CRIME

“SEC. 3030. SHORT TITLE.

“This part may be cited as the ‘National White Collar Crime Control Act of 2017’.

“SEC. 3031. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with or make a grant to an eligible entity for the purpose of improving the identification, investigation, and prosecution of white collar crime (including each category of such crimes set forth in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b)) by providing comprehensive, direct, and practical training and technical assistance to law enforcement officers, investigators, auditors and prosecutors in States and units of local government.

“(b) WHITE COLLAR CRIME DEFINED.—For purposes of this part, the term ‘white collar crime’ includes—

“(1) high-tech crime, including cyber and electronic crime and related threats;

“(2) economic crime, including financial fraud and mortgage fraud; and

“(3) Internet-based crime against children and child pornography.

“SEC. 3032. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this part include the following:

“(1) To ensure that training is available for State, local, tribal and territorial law enforcement agencies and officers nationwide to support local efforts to identify, prevent, investigate, and prosecute cyber and financial crimes, including those crimes facilitated via computer networks and other electronic means, and crimes involving financial and economic impacts such as intellectual property crimes.

“(2) To deliver training to State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, and other criminal justice professionals concerning the use of proven methodologies to prevent, detect, and respond to such crimes, recognize emerging issues, manage electronic and financial crime evidence and to improve local criminal justice agency responses to such threats.

“(3) To provide operational and technical assistance and training concerning tools, products, resources, guidelines, and procedures to aid and enhance criminal intelligence analysis, conduct cyber crime and financial crime investigations, and related justice information sharing at the local and State levels.

“(4) To provide appropriate training on protections for privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties in the conduct of criminal intel-

ligence analysis and cyber and electronic crime and financial crime investigations, including in the development of policies, guidelines, and procedures by State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies to protect and enhance privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protections and identify weaknesses and gaps in the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

“SEC. 3033. AUTHORIZED PROGRAMS.

“A grant or cooperative agreement awarded under this part may be made only for the following programs, with respect to the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of certain criminal activities:

“(1) Programs to provide a nationwide support system for State and local criminal justice agencies.

“(2) Programs to assist State and local criminal justice agencies to develop, establish, and maintain intelligence-focused policing strategies and related information sharing.

“(3) Programs to provide training and investigative support services to State and local criminal justice agencies to provide such agencies with skills and resources needed to investigate and prosecute such criminal activities and related criminal activities.

“(4) Programs to provide research support, to establish partnerships, and to provide other resources to aid State and local criminal justice agencies to prevent, investigate, and prosecute such criminal activities and related problems.

“(5) Programs to provide information and research to the general public to facilitate the prevention of such criminal activities.

“(6) Programs to establish or support national training and research centers regionally to provide training and research services for State and local criminal justice agencies.

“(7) Programs to provide training and oversight to State and local criminal justice agencies to develop and comply with applicable privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties related policies, procedures, rules, laws, and guidelines.

“(8) Any other programs specified by the Attorney General as furthering the purposes of this part.

“SEC. 3034. APPLICATION.

“To be eligible for an award of a grant or cooperative agreement under this part, an entity shall submit to the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance an application in such form and manner, and containing such information, as required by the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

“SEC. 3035. ELIGIBILITY.

“States, units of local government, not-for-profit entities, and institutions of higher education with demonstrated capacity and experience in delivering training, technical assistance and other resources including direct, practical laboratory training to law enforcement officers, investigators, auditors and prosecutors in States and units of local government and over the Internet shall be eligible to receive an award under this part.

“SEC. 3036. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

“The Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out this part, including rules and regulations for submitting and reviewing applications under section 3035.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$13,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022 to carry out —

(1) part MM of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by subsection (a); and

(2) section 401(b) of the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (34 U.S.C. 30103(b)).

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (H.R. 1616), as amended, was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, October 3; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Cissna nomination; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators Gillibrand and Blumenthal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New York.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the horrific mass murders last night. My heart is obviously with the victims and their families, and I thank all of our brave first responders who acted so quickly.

These senseless mass shootings must end. We cannot allow this to be the new normal, where tragedy after tragedy happens, and we do absolutely nothing to address it. It is not good enough to just send thoughts and prayers and extend our condolences when people are losing their lives to gun violence every day.

We still have to learn the details about what happened, but what we do know is this: This violence, this mass

murder, is one of the worst massacres we have ever seen in this country. It is yet another reminder of Congress' failure to act to protect Americans from gun violence. It is another disturbing and painful example of how Congress is too weak and too cowardly to stand up to the gun industry.

The news reports are saying that the gun was shooting in rapid-fire bursts, a military-style weapon specifically designed to kill as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time, a weapon of war.

We have to pass laws that protect the American people from this kind of horrific violence. It should not be legal for a civilian on American soil to own and use a weapon of war like an assault weapon. Our military is highly trained to use such weapons. It should not be easy for any person to buy a suppressor—known by many people as a silencer—to attach to their guns, which makes it harder for police to do their jobs and catch violent criminals.

The people of Nevada voted in November to require background checks on all weapons, but the politicians in that State are refusing to implement the will of the people. The violence in Las Vegas is only the latest tragedy like this. Mass shootings get all the news, but every single day in my home State, gun violence on a much smaller scale is destroying more and more lives.

We really need to act. We must take gun violence as seriously as we take the threat of terrorism, wherever it is happening.

We will get to the facts and the bottom of this. And when we do, let's honor the lives of those we have lost by doing something about it, doing everything we can to make sure this never happens again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, we have been here before. We have been here in the wake of Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, Orlando, numerous other mass shootings, and now Las Vegas.

We can all agree that our hearts and prayers, mourning and condolences go out to the families of loved ones who have suffered this senseless, horrific violence. We can also agree that many of the details are unknown about the shooter, and a lot of investigation will be done. We can all agree that Las Vegas was struck by evil; call it pure evil.

We know what it looks like in Connecticut because we saw it firsthand in

Newtown. We lived through the heart-breaking, unspeakable violence of that day, just a few years ago, when evil visited Newtown and caused the death of 26 beautiful human beings, including 20 children. America came together in support of us in Connecticut, and today we should come together in support of the people of Nevada.

My heart and prayers are with them, but thoughts and prayers are not enough. We know the evil that visited Connecticut also brought forth good in other people—in the first responders, the doctors, and countless members of the community and people of America who united.

I will never forget that day in Newtown when the community came together in St. Rose of Lima Church for an evening of mourning. I said then that the whole world was watching. Indeed, what the world saw was courage and resilience of truly heroic proportions—some of the good along with the evil.

When I saw those images today in Las Vegas—the sound of that gunfire, the pandemonium, the reports of injuries and deaths—it brought back to me that day in Newtown. I was not there for the shooting, as I had gone later in the day, but the memories of that day and of the successive days, weeks, and years had been brought back. My heart broke, but my stomach also churned with anger. I was frustrated and furious.

I am now furious because Congress has failed to act. Nothing has changed since Newtown. Congress has been complicit when we have had numerous opportunities and many reasons to make America safer and adopt commonsense measures that 90 percent of Americans support. So thoughts and prayers are not enough. Hand-wringing and soul-searching is needed, but it is insufficient. What is needed now is action.

I am under no illusions. Nobody needs to tell me where the votes are at this moment. We need to be realistic about what the agenda is in our going forward. We need to be very clear-eyed and realistic, but we also need to recognize that we can win this fight. Between the time that Ronald Reagan had almost been assassinated and the day that the Brady bill had passed, it had been almost 10 years. We need to be in this fight as a marathon, not as a sprint, and that is the determination and resolve that must be brought to this effort.

It was 5 years ago when a man wielding a semiautomatic rifle murdered 20 children and 6 adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. The cries of grief echoed around this country, and there was a moment when action could have been taken. We need to seize this moment. Then, the vote, shamefully, failed to reach 60 for commonsense measures, like background checks. We needed 60, and we had a majority, and our colleagues in the House of Representatives told us that that measure would have passed there.

Since then, every day in this country an average of 92 Americans die due to gun violence, which is 33,000 Americans every year, and 59 is the death toll as of this moment in Las Vegas. Day after

day, 92 Americans are killed as a result of gun violence, and 60 of them are suicides, but that is no less a death, and it is a preventable death if there are commonsense measures that will stop this carnage.

I would be happy never to speak about this topic, never to complain again about Congress's complicity, but our hearts break, and our stomachs churn with fury. America's should as well. After Newtown, Aurora, Blacksburg, Charleston, Chattanooga, Lafayette, San Bernardino, Orlando, and, now, Las Vegas, these cities have become synonymous with mass shootings—unjustly tarnished. What is needed is national resolve.

For anyone who says that we should only mourn or offer condolences, let me just say, very simply: Let us honor those victims and keep faith with their memories, so that their lives and losses will not be in vain, by taking action that makes America safer. Let us redouble our determination. The bills are ready to go, the agenda is set, and the action is clear. Let us honor their memories through action. If the President believes this carnage was pure evil, let him lead—if not today, tomorrow, and if not tomorrow, Wednesday, when he visits Las Vegas. If these actions were pure evil, let us all lead by our example, and let us move forward to stop this carnage in the future. We grieve these losses, but we need to recognize that the measures now before Congress are a travesty and a dishonor to those lives that were lost.

One of these proposals is an innocuous-sounding Hearing Protection Act—let me repeat: the Hearing Protection Act—which could come to a vote as early as this week in the House of Representatives. This measure would gut regulations on gun silencers.

Now, let's be very clear. Silencers are already widely available to hundreds of sportsmen who pay the fee, register, and wait for a short period. This legislation would make it terrifyingly easy to buy a gun silencer. Hunters and recreational shooters deserve to have silencers but only if they comply with those regulations. This measure would pose an unacceptable risk to public safety and make it more difficult for law enforcement, especially in urban areas, to identify gunshots, locate shooters, and protect civilians.

In one interview after another of the victims of last night's shooting, there was a common refrain: They ran, and they escaped because they heard those gunshots. The only supposed reform measure before the Congress right now that has been given a chance of passage is a proposal to make it easier to buy gun silencers. The only thing that led those individuals to escape—or one of the only things—was, in fact, the sound of gunshots. How many lives would have been taken last night if the shooter had had a silencer?

Another proposal is the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, which would essentially eliminate the States' ability to regulate concealed-carry permits in their States, undermining the laws that States like Connecticut have put in place to keep our residents safe.

In the wake of Newtown, Charleston, Orlando, and, now, Las Vegas, Members

of Congress should come together to protect our lives from these senseless killings. It is not about Republicans or Democrats. It is not about politics. It is not even about policy. It is about public safety, simply. We should not be undermining protection. What a travesty and tragedy and what a dishonor to the memories of those victims in Las Vegas to now be on the verge of weakening rather than strengthening our public safety laws.

Let's join hands across the aisle and across both Houses to stand up to the gun lobby, the NRA, and other special interests and release and break their grip on Congress. More than thoughts and prayers are necessary, although they fulfill a vitally important function. Talk must be turned into action. Waiting simply means more deaths, and delay means time. Time is not on our side with there being 92 deaths, on average, every day as a result of gun violence.

Let us join together and combat evil. Certainly, it was there in Las Vegas, but it will visit other communities, as it does every day. Those 92 deaths and mass shootings will continue unless commonsense, sensible measures, like a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, are adopted, as well as there being mandatory background checks for all gun sales. Until this is adopted, America will be more at risk. We must make America safer, and that is an obligation that we share across the aisle and across the two bodies of Congress.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:31 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

GREGORY E. MAGGS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS TO EXPIRE ON THE DATE PRESCRIBED BY LAW, VICE CHARLES E. ERDMANN, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIANA FURCHTGOFF-ROTH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NAZAKHTAR NIKAKHTAR, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE MARCUS DWAYNE JADOTTE, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

DENNIS M. DEVANEY, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2023, VICE IRVING A. WILLIAMSON, TERM EXPIRED.

RANDOLPH J. STAYIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2026, VICE MEREDITH M. BROADBENT, TERM EXPIRED.

THE JUDICIARY

BARRY W. ASHE, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, VICE L. R. LEMELLE, RETIRED.

DANIEL DESMOND DOMENICO, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO, VICE ROBERT E. BLACKBURN, RETIRED.

STUART KYLE DUNCAN, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, VICE W. EUGENE DAVIS, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL J. LACAMERA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. TWANDA E. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROGER D. MURDOCK

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

JULIE P. AKEY, OF VIRGINIA
DULCE M. AYOUBI-ACOSTA, OF VIRGINIA
HENRY N. BAKER, JR., OF KENTUCKY
JEFFREY S. BARRUS, OF UTAH
BENJAMIN J. BAUGHMAN, OF TEXAS
SARAH M. BELOUSOV, OF FLORIDA
STRAUN W. BOSTON, OF CALIFORNIA
SHANNON M. BRINK, OF COLORADO
ANTHONY C. BROSNAN, OF MISSOURI
TUCKER A. BROWN, OF TEXAS
JOEL BURGER, OF PENNSYLVANIA
THOMAS G. CECIL, OF FLORIDA
MOLLY MCCABE CHINCHILLA, OF ALASKA
VINCENT G. CILLI, OF FLORIDA
EVA COFFEY, OF TEXAS
ADAM R. COLVIN, OF ALABAMA
SYDNEY A. CROSS, OF MISSOURI
STACI RAAB DAWSON, OF VIRGINIA
CRAIG A. DENNISON, OF IOWA
RISHI PRAFUL HAYWAR DESAI, OF WEST VIRGINIA
COLIN J. DONOVAN, OF WISCONSIN
KATRINA N. DRAYTON, OF MICHIGAN
EDWARD A. EICHLER, OF MAINE
ELIZABETH LAUREEN EVANS, OF VIRGINIA
MANDY Z. FEUERBACHER, OF CALIFORNIA
ERIC K. FONG, OF CALIFORNIA
DARIN FOSTER, OF TEXAS
MARINA O. GALKINA, OF FLORIDA
DANIELA GARRETTON, OF CALIFORNIA
JONAS B. GIL, OF NEVADA
PHILLIP M. GUTHRIE, OF TEXAS
RUSSELL C. HEADLEE, OF NEBRASKA
TODD A. JURKOWSKI, OF FLORIDA
NICHOLAS A. KLINGER, OF FLORIDA
FAITH E. KROEKER-MAUS, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
ABRAHAM YISUNG LEE, OF MARYLAND
RUBY V. MARCELO, OF MARYLAND
COURTNEY M. MAZZONE, OF NEW YORK
TIMOTHY S. MCNALLY, OF ILLINOIS
CHRISTOPHER I. MERRIMAN, OF VIRGINIA
BRIAN C. PHELPS, OF FLORIDA
RICHARD E. PINKHAM II, OF OHIO
CHRISTOPHER J. PISTULKA, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
JAMISON F. PIXLEY, OF MASSACHUSETTS
CALEB D. PORTNOY, OF MASSACHUSETTS
RYAN M. REYNOLDS, OF UTAH
ROYAL S. RIPLEY, OF FLORIDA
LEAH J. SEVERINO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
AMELIA R. SHAW, OF NEW YORK
CRYSTAL DAWN SHERIDAN, OF TEXAS
GENEVIEVE C. SIEBENGARTNER, OF OREGON
NICHOLAS S. SIEGEL, OF VIRGINIA
HELEN ELISABETH SOCOLOW, OF NEW YORK
SARAH R. STEPHENS, OF OKLAHOMA
SCOTT C. TUTTLE, OF NEW YORK
MERRY M. WALKER, OF WASHINGTON
JESSICA ELLEN WARDER, OF FLORIDA
MICHAEL Y. WARDER, OF FLORIDA
MICHELLE KRISTINE WARREN, OF NEW JERSEY
JOSEPH N. YACKLEY, OF ILLINOIS
VERA N. ZDRAVKOVA, OF IDAHO

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate October 2, 2017:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

AJIT VARADARAJ PAI, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2016.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish both the people of Taiwan and Americans celebrating Taiwan's National Day this October 10th a Happy Double Ten Day.

In the decades preceding and following the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the United States and Taiwan have built a solid bond that cannot be broken—born out of our shared values and our cooperation with each other in times of crisis, and in times of advancement.

During the years, this key ally in the Asia-Pacific has transformed itself into a multiparty democracy which is a significant contributor to the global economy and humanitarian assistance. This is chiefly due to the hard work of the 23.5 million people on Taiwan, who value education, science, and progress. Americans share these values, which is why we have also contributed to Taiwan's success not only through our support and friendship, but through the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances, cornerstones of our relations with Taiwan.

In 2016, Taiwan ranked as the United States' 10th largest trading partner and 7th largest export market for U.S. agricultural products. Moreover, Tennessee's exports to Taiwan reached \$265.19 million in the same year. Taiwan is Tennessee's 7th largest export market in Asia. Tennessee companies have substantial opportunities to expand their business and cooperation with Taiwan. I will, together with Taiwan, work to find areas where we can partner to our mutual benefit.

This is a day to celebrate, and to be optimistic. I ask my colleagues to join me in recommitting ourselves to the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and in wishing Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

HONORING ROBERT REESE

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Reese, an outstanding constituent in my district on the Central Coast of California. Robert has served as the executive director for the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts for over 30 years. His dedication to preserving a vibrant artistic culture that pays homage to the traditions of the original artists' colony of Carmel, CA has served to make the central coast a hub of innovative art and science.

Whether it be through sculptures, paintings, concerts, poetry readings, recitals, or multimedia performances, the Center for the Arts has consistently provided the invaluable service of allowing residents the opportunity to see themselves, and their community, through a different lens.

Throughout his tenure as executive director, Robert has remained true to the founding vision of Jeanne D'Orge, who founded the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts in the 1940's. Famous for producing and hosting some of the world's greatest artists, poets, and writers since the turn of the 20th century, Carmel-by-the-Sea continues to nurture original art and new forms of theater, a wonderful public service that Robert has contributed to tirelessly over the past three decades. His keen eye for fully exploring the "ethos" behind any given piece of artistic expression is a gift that served him well at bringing the community the best kind of art—that which challenges our preconceived notions, and changes the way we think.

In addition to being an expert curator of fine arts, Robert is also a former journalist and award-winning writer. His writing earned him an anthology in the publication Best Spiritual Writing, and the Monterey County Cultural Arts Benefactor Award. A man of great civic virtue, he also regularly volunteers as a chaplain for the Monterey County Jail, and at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Robert Reese for his many accomplishments and contributions to his community. In these polarized times, bringing people together in any way possible is of the utmost importance, and there is no better way to accomplish this than through appreciation of great art, whatever form that may take.

RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS, ROBERT NEWLEN

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I am so honored to rise today to recognize and commend the Deputy Librarian of Congress, Robert Newlen, who is leaving the Library of Congress after more than 43 years of distinguished service to accept a position with a private foundation.

Before being named Deputy Librarian last year, Mr. Newlen served as chief of staff, assistant law librarian in the Law Library, and held several leadership positions within the Congressional Research Service.

Mr. Newlen is literally an institution within an institution. He has provided exceptional leadership and counsel across the Library of Congress since the mid-1970's and is admired

and respected widely by his many colleagues and friends there. His knowledge, energy, and wisdom have enabled him to be an enthusiastic champion for the Library, both across the nation and the world.

It has been my honor to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress in the current Congress and in previous terms, and in those capacities I have always been impressed with Mr. Newlen's dedication to the world's premier library and his personal warmth and self-effacing manner. Robert Newlen is a classic example of what a public servant should be. I thank him for his service to the Library of Congress, to the United States Congress, and to the American people. He will be missed on Capitol Hill. I wish him well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for Roll Call Nos. 542 (on the passage of H.R. 3823), and 543 (on the passage of H.R. 2792). Had I been present, I would have voted No on both these votes.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 106TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 106th National Day of the Republic of Taiwan (China), or the "Double-Ten" celebration. Since the signing of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), the United States and Taiwan have forged a strong partnership based on our shared values of democracy, freedom, and rule of law.

Over the years, Taiwan's economy has developed into one of the most innovative and advanced in the world. Taiwan has also proved itself to be a model of democracy in the Asia-Pacific region. The relationship between Taiwan and the United States is particularly strong when it comes to trade between the two countries, having created roughly half-a-million jobs in the United States. Taiwan's role and importance as a trading partner with the United States continues to grow every day.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to further strengthening our relationship to create even more prosperity for our two countries. I stand ready to work with this administration in order to do so.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

WE MUST ROOT OUT RACISM

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank my colleagues, for organizing this important special order hour and for their dedicated leadership in the fight to take racism and discrimination head on in America.

I'd also like to thank Chairman RICHMOND for his mighty leadership of our caucus as we work in resistance to this Administration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with my colleagues in the fight to Root Out Racism from our society.

Our country was founded on the values of freedom, justice and equality.

Right now, those very same values are under attack from the highest levels of our government where the President of the United States and Republicans are openly embracing racist and discriminatory policies and actions.

As we speak the Trump Administration is actively supporting a Presidential Voting Commission which is rooted in voter suppression and racism.

As we speak, Attorney General Jeff Sessions is undoing consent decrees, funding private prisons and reviving the failed War on Drugs which is rooted in racism.

As we speak, this Administration is waging an all-out attack on affirmative action on campuses across the country which is rooted in racism.

As we speak, the President of the United States is being advised by individuals with ties to white supremacists, white nationalists and Neo-Nazis.

And to make matters worse, the President takes to Twitter nearly every morning to fan the flames of division and discrimination.

Choosing to tacitly speak out against racially motivated killings in Charlottesville but finding ample time to insult athletes who are protesting in solidarity with Colin Kaepernick.

Mr. Speaker, a recent NBC News/Wallstreet Journal poll found that 70 percent of Americans believe race relations in America are poor.

This should come as a surprise to no one. I am convinced that the public wants us to root out racism.

Attacks against communities of color seem to have no end under the Trump Administration. Racism, unfortunately is alive and well in the United States.

We need look no further than the devastating budget cuts Republicans have proposed which would disproportionately impact African Americans.

We must also acknowledge that systematic racism permeates these policies.

Last year then-presidential candidate Donald Trump asked African Americans what do we have to lose?

The answer is clearer than ever before: everything.

Critical programs that help the most vulnerable such as Meals on Wheels, heating and energy assistance, and nutrition aid to women and children are on the chopping block in the President's budget.

The President's budget eliminates: Community Development Block Grants; HOME programs that provide affordable housing for low-

income residents; Legal Services Corporation, which helps those who cannot afford legal representation; and the Minority Business Development Agency, which helps promote minority-owned businesses.

And Republicans are determined to continue their crusade against the Affordable Care Act which would rip healthcare from millions of African Americans.

For over 50 years our progress as a nation has been measured by how we reckon with the remaining vestiges of slavery, how we root out racism when it rears its ugly head.

Administrations have been judged by their support for civil rights, voting rights, advances in health care, public education, social justice and strengthening ladders of opportunity to enter the middle for African Americans.

This Administration is failing on all accounts. That is why as the "Conscience of the Congress", Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have united to resist the rollback of progress.

We will resist this cruel hearted political agenda, which exudes racism at its core.

We will stand united in defense of our communities.

And we will exercise our God-given constitutional rights.

From Jamestown to Jim Crow, we've fought to root out racism in this country and we have won amazing victories.

So right now, despite the challenges we face with this President and Republicans in Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus will continue to fight.

Whether it's standing up to the alt right agenda in the White House or taking a knee in solidarity with courageous Americans, we will not lose heart in the fight to root out racism. Because in the words of that old negro spiritual, "We aint gonna let nobody, turn us around".

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Troy, Illinois, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

St. Paul's had its beginning in 1864 when local Lutheran families first came together for worship. In 1865 a new church building was dedicated, which served both as a place to worship and as a school, and on January 25, 1867, St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation was officially established.

Since then, St. Paul's has had a strong presence in Troy. Whether by providing an elementary school education to its children, giving back to Troy through its community-based services, or simply ministering to its congregation, St. Paul's has been a focal point for the religious and spiritual needs of the community.

In the years since the first church building was dedicated, St. Paul's has undergone many changes: a second house of God was dedicated in 1888, German and English services began in 1900, an extensive remodeling occurred in 1938, and construction on the current church began in 1961. But what has not

changed over the past 150 years has been the spirit of love and joy in God's work that first animated St. Paul's and is present in today's congregation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an important milestone for St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and I wish it, and its pastor, the Reverend Michael Schuessler, the very best as they celebrate the church's 150th anniversary.

HAPPY DOUBLE TEN DAY (TAIWAN)

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish both the people of Taiwan and Americans celebrating Taiwan's National Day this October 10th a Happy Double Ten Day.

Our two countries' partnership has flourished thanks to a mutual commitment to democratic values and constitutional government. Taiwan has created a strong democracy, as evidenced by the six direct presidential elections the country has held since 1996 and the three peaceful passages of power from one political party to another in the wake of these elections, most recently in 2016. Taiwan now serves as a strong example of democracy for not only the Asia Pacific region, but also the world.

The strength of this bond has also been demonstrated most recently by a series of common initiatives. In August, our two nations collaborated on the launch of Taiwan's first domestically built satellite, the Formosat-5, and Taiwan signed letters of intent to purchase approximately 365 million bushels of U.S. grains in 2018 and 2019 worth almost \$3 billion. Additionally, Taipei pledged \$800,000 to relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

I applaud Taiwan's commitment to deepening ties with the United States, and the people of Taiwan should rest assured that Americans and this Congress share it.

This is a day to celebrate, and to be optimistic. I ask my colleagues to join me in recommitting ourselves to the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and in wishing Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

RECOGNIZING PAWNEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S 165TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize Pawnee United Methodist Church as they celebrate their 165th anniversary serving Pawnee, Illinois through ministry and service.

In 1852, Pastor Rev. A. Bradshaw established the first Methodist class in Pawnee, IL, where they met in a home of a member of the congregation. Five years later, the first Methodist church was built in what is now the heart of downtown Pawnee. By 1966, an additional space was needed to accommodate the growing congregation, thus a new sanctuary was built.

Pawnee United Methodist Church continues to serve the area with God's enduring blessings and faithful watch. The congregation's commitment to faith, service, and community embodies the virtues of true servants of God. I extend my sincere congratulations and gratitude to Pawnee United Methodist Church for all they have done and continue to do. May they continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ in the world.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind my colleagues that October 10th is Taiwan's National Day—also known as Double Ten Day. As this day approaches, I would like to congratulate the people of Taiwan, both on this occasion and on building one of the world's great democracies.

Over the past 30 years, Taiwan has come to embody the same principles we hold dear: constitutional government, democracy, freedom, and entrepreneurship. Through the democratization over the last three decades, Taiwan now serves as a strong example of democracy for not only the Asia-Pacific region, but also the world. Yet it is not just our commitment to democratic and constitutional values that ties our two countries together.

Taiwan and the United States have together faced a number of challenges, and have time and again displayed a steadfast commitment to one another's security and prosperity. The Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) was enshrined in 1979, and later supplemented by the Six Assurances given by President Ronald Reagan in 1982. The TRA and the Six Assurances form the cornerstone of our relations with Taiwan, and I would like to express my strong and continuing support for these foundations to our relations. I reaffirm it today, and again congratulate the people of Taiwan on this important occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF BEN ROSE AND HIS SERVICE TO CABARRUS COUNTY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben Rose on nearly a decade of service to North Carolina's 8th District as Cabarrus County Department of Social Services Director.

Originally from Raleigh, Ben received his undergraduate degree in biology at Campbell University and went on to finish his Master's in social work at Tulane University. Since finishing school, he has applied his education to community service and helping those who need it most. Ben has been an integral part of helping me assist our shared constituents and provide them with the best services possible.

Over the years, Ben has dedicated his life to furthering the state of North Carolina. He has served on the boards of the North Caro-

lina Association of County Social Services Directors, Cabarrus County Mental Health Advisory, Cabarrus County Transportation Advisory, Cabarrus County Conflict Resolution and Teen Court, Cabarrus Literacy Council, and on the Advisory Board of the State Employees Credit Union. As you can see, Ben's servant heart never stops, no matter the day or time.

Residing in North Carolina, he and his wife, Brenda, have one daughter. Ben has shown immense dedication to his career and his family over the years. I am extremely grateful for Ben's service to our community and I wish him continued success.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Ben Rose for his service to our community.

HONORING CHIEF DONALD R. OLIVER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend Donald R. Oliver as he retires as Chief of the City of Wilson, North Carolina Fire/Rescue Service located in my congressional district where he has led the department since 1992.

Chief Oliver began his firefighting career in Wichita, Kansas 50 years ago with the Wichita Fire Department. It was there that he met his wife Linda who worked at the Department as a fire-dispatcher.

After serving the people of Wichita as a firefighter, the two moved to Thornton, Colorado where Chief Oliver served as a firefighter for nearly 20 years and moved up the ranks first as Lieutenant, then Training Officer, Assistant Chief and ultimately Chief.

Mr. Speaker, in 1992, Chief Oliver moved to my hometown of Wilson, North Carolina and began serving as Chief of the Wilson Fire/Rescue Service. He is the longest serving Chief of the Fire/Rescue Service in the history of our great City and I know I speak for residents of the City in thanking Chief Oliver for working day and night to keep us safe.

In addition to his duties as Chief of the City of Wilson's Fire/Rescue Service, Chief Oliver represented his fellow firefighters on the International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire Prevention Committee where he served as Chair. The worldwide association represents the leadership of firefighters and emergency responders. Chief Oliver served as President of the National Fire Protection Association from 1996 until 2004 and was a charter member of the National Society of Executive Fire Officers. He also was a member of the Board of Visitors for the National Fire Academy from 1996 until 2009.

Mr. Speaker, for a quarter century, Chief Oliver has led the City of Wilson Fire/Rescue Service. He has been responsible not only for protecting the lives of the residents of our City, but also those who served under his capable leadership. I am grateful for his work.

So on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the residents of the First Congressional District of North Carolina, I thank Chief Donald R. Oliver for his enormous sacrifices over his great career and wish him well as he retires from honorable service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 28, 2017, I missed Roll Call vote 543 on H.R. 2792, the Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons Act of 2017. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call vote 543.

HONORING ZAGATHON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Zagathon and the students of Gonzaga University who are associated with this annual event. Today, Gonzaga joins with more than 300 Miracle Network Dance Marathon programs across the country for Child Health Day.

In 2013, this event, formerly known as Gonzaga University Dance Marathon, set out to raise money for children in the community. In 2013, the group raised \$6,000 for Children's Miracle Network and last year raised an astounding \$76,000. This money stays in Eastern Washington, benefitting the Sacred Heart Children's Hospital in Spokane.

Past dance marathon events have provided Vein Finder devices for less painful IV starts and a vital piece of equipment for the NICU that prevents premature infants from having to be moved to receive lifesaving treatments. According to John Lauck, President and CEO of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, "the caliber of students who participate in Miracle Network Dance Marathon completely contradict the millennial stereotype. I appreciate the countless hours they contribute to this effort, the leadership skills they demonstrate throughout the process and the immense impact they have on local kids".

I applaud the efforts of the students of Gonzaga University for doing their part to raise money for some of the most vulnerable in our communities, our children.

TRIBAL HERITAGE AND GRIZZLY BEAR PROTECTION ACT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, the Tribal Heritage and Grizzly Bear Protection Act will ensure continued respect for both the ecological and cultural values of the grizzly bear. It requires that conservation and management of the species is conducted in close consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes, as many Tribes value the bear in ways that cannot be accounted for solely under Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections. Eagles have been recognized for their symbolic importance to our country and were protected by Congress under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, even after these species had recovered under the ESA. Similarly, grizzly

bears are essential to the culture and history of our nation's Tribes and deserve strong protections.

The recent decision by the Department of the Interior to remove Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections from grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) remains controversial and is being challenged in court. While GYE grizzly bears have made significant progress towards recovery over the past forty two years, the population is still at risk of extinction from a suite of impacts, including habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, decline of food sources, and human caused mortality. The best available science does not support the decision to delist the GYE grizzly bear population without putting in place strong safeguards to prevent population decline and maintain connectivity with other populations of grizzly bears. Removing protections reverses the progress that has been made over the last four decades under the ESA. Over 50 Tribal Nations stand in opposition to delisting and have raised concerns over the Department of the Interior's decision, particularly regarding the science, lack of transparency, and irreparable harm that delisting GYE grizzly bears would cause to Tribal sovereignty, sacred site protections, treaty rights, consultation mandates, and spiritual and religious freedoms.

To guarantee continued protection of all grizzly bears, the Tribal Heritage and Grizzly Bear Protection Act sets strong conservation standards for grizzly bears and their habitat. It bans trophy hunting and only permits the take of grizzly bears under a narrow set of circumstances: scientific or exhibition purposes, religious purposes of federally recognized Indian Tribes, and protection of agricultural interests and public safety. Grizzly bears are important top predators and help maintain ecosystems by keeping grazing populations in check, which prevents overgrazing of key habitats. They are a critical component of our landscapes and should not be hunted simply for sport. Additionally, grizzly bears have already lost large expanses of their historic range and existing habitat should be protected against further destruction.

Human caused mortalities of grizzly bears are a key threat to the species, including aggressive predator control of grizzly bears. This bill prohibits non-discriminatory predator control measures, such as those used by many states, which may result in the taking of grizzly bears on U.S. public lands. The bill also increases annual funding for livestock loss prevention programs to add prevention of loss from grizzly bears; productive, precautionary measures like these can address human-grizzly interactions much better than indiscriminate measures that kill large numbers of grizzly bears and result in few positive outcomes.

Finally, this bill affirms Tribal sovereignty and spiritual and religious rights. The grizzly bear is considered an ancestor by many Native American cultures, celebrated in numerous ceremonies, and is a key part of environments that include sacred and historical sites. This bill recognizes the grizzly bear's significance by requiring consultation with Tribes before permitting grizzly bear take and before major federal actions that may impact bears or their habitat. It also adds Tribal members to the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee and creates a much needed process and management partnership for reintroduction of grizzly

bears to suitable land of willing Tribes. Grizzly bears are a core part of Tribal heritage and healthy ecosystems, and it is critical to protect this remarkable species and the culture they embody.

CONGRATULATING TEAM USA ON THEIR SOLHEIM CUP VICTORY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Team USA for their victory over Team Europe in the Solheim Cup.

Team USA includes our nation's best women golfers, and they took home the title for the second consecutive time by defeating Team Europe 16½ to 11½. The team was led by captain Juli Inkster and South Florida native Lexi Thompson, the third best female golfer in the world. The Americans went into the final day of the tournament with a five-point lead and they fought hard to maintain it. Important final day victories by veteran Paula Creamer as well as South Florida's own Christie Kerr helped seal the win for Team USA.

All the members of Team USA played well throughout the tournament, and I am happy to congratulate them again on this impressive accomplishment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 130TH AN- NIVERSARY OF SACRAMENTO CENTRAL SEVENTH-DAY AD- VENTIST CHURCH

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 130th Anniversary of Sacramento Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church. As the church community gathers to celebrate this momentous occasion, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring this well-established congregation in Sacramento.

The Sacramento Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church began as only a handful of Sacramento faithful who would meet every week near 14th and I Street. The first meeting occurred on November 9th, 1881, and the group grew all the way into the twentieth century. The congregation was then joined by a pastor and started a series of moves and construction projects as the burgeoning community necessitated ever more space for worship. This journey culminated in 1973, when the building that serves as the Central Church was constructed along the banks of the American River.

The members of the Sacramento Central Adventist Church have worked tirelessly to better the world around them, both at their doorstep with a host of services to benefit their local community and across the globe through mission trips. Their generosity and moral courage have won them many adherents in the course of their 130 years in Sacramento, and their journey is far from over.

Mr. Speaker, as the congregation gathers in honor of the 130th Anniversary of Sacramento

Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring this staple of the Sacramento area and all it has provided to the community.

RECOGNITION OF DOUBLE TEN DAY, TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Double Ten Day, the upcoming national day of Taiwan.

Taiwan celebrates its national day every October 10th. As this special day approaches, I would like to wish the people of Taiwan and all Taiwanese and Chinese Americans a happy Double Ten Day.

These occasions remind us to reflect on our past successes and look forward with renewed commitment to what we may accomplish together in the days and months ahead.

The United States and Taiwan share a special bond, forged by mutual respect and a steadfast commitment to one another's security and prosperity.

Through the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 and the deliverance of the Six Assurances by President Ronald Reagan in 1982, the United States and Taiwan cemented a strong friendship deepened by mutual strength in the face of hardship.

I believe the United States and Taiwan must continue to prioritize investment in defense capabilities that will secure its peace, but also want to recognize that the commitment to the bond between our nations extends to humanitarian support.

In fact, recently, officials Taipei pledged to donate \$800,000 to local governments and relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, which touched the lives of thousands of Americans. Taiwan rose up and came to the aid of our struggling communities—showcasing Taiwan's leadership and dedication to its relationship with the United States.

I would like to extend thanks to President Tsai Ing-wen and the people of Taiwan for their generosity and friendship, and again wish them a Happy Double Ten Day.

CELEBRATING THE LAUNCH OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK RE- STORE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the opening of Habitat for Humanity's Southern Adirondack ReStore.

Habitat for Humanity has a long history of serving Northern Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties by providing affordable housing to those in need. In order to continue its mission, Habitat for Humanity is expanding its services to a new ReStore in Moreau, New York. At this location, Habitat for Humanity will sell furniture, appliances, home accessories, building materials and more for an affordable

price. Habitat for Humanity's ability to offer these goods and services at the ReStore is made possible by the hard work of volunteers and donors throughout the community. By working on behalf of their neighbors, the volunteers of Habitat for Humanity continue to enrich the North Country community.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank Habitat for Humanity and its volunteers for providing an invaluable service to the North Country. We are grateful for Habitat for Humanity's commitment to this region, and look forward to the benefits that the ReStore will provide for years to come.

CONGRATULATING THE 106TH NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate President Tsai Ing-wen and the people of Taiwan as they celebrate the 106th anniversary of its National Day on October 10, 2017.

With the success of its sixth direct presidential election, Taiwan continues to serve as a beacon of vibrant democracy in the Asia-Pacific region.

We just celebrated the 38th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) this past April. The TRA was intended by Congress to endure an important relationship between close friends and allies. I am heartened by the strengthening of ties that have taken place in recent years, from Taiwan's admission to the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in 2012, and the first visit of a Cabinet-level official since the Clinton Administration in 2014. The bond between the United States and Taiwan is stronger than ever.

Taiwan is also a great friend in times of despair. Following the recent devastation of Hurricane Harvey, Taiwan generously contributed \$800,000 for relief efforts. In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, Taiwan, by the same token, offered a helping hand and donated \$2 million.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating our friend, Taiwan, on this important occasion.

CELEBRATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF PPL'S FUSE PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to bring to the House's attention the 15th anniversary of FUSE, Pennsylvania Power and Light's employee business resource group for members of the LGBTQ community and their allies.

In 1920, eight Pennsylvania utilities came together to form the Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL) Corporation. By 1928, the company—headquartered in the iconic PPL building in Allentown, Pennsylvania—would link with Philadelphia Electric Co. to form the world's first fully-integrated power pool.

For nearly a century, PPL has continued to grow and expand. Today, PPL services nearly 10 million customers in central and eastern Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, the company employs over 13,000 people.

PPL has demonstrated itself as an impressive business, based not only on its commitment to the greater Lehigh Valley and Pennsylvania's 15th District, but also on its commitment to its employees. The FUSE business resource group is a shining example of this commitment.

FUSE was founded 15 years ago to promote and provide an inclusive, considerate, and diverse work environment for PPL employees who identify as part of the LGBTQ community. The program allows LGBTQ employees and their allies to come together to tackle workplace projects and pursue meaningful professional development opportunities. Fifteen years removed from FUSE's founding, PPL's commitment to its LGBTQ employees was honored earlier this year when it was named a 2017 Best Place to Work for LGBT Equality by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

PPL is a valued member of Pennsylvania's 15th District and a respected corporate citizen, powering our communities and providing good jobs and good wages to our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to offer my congratulations to the men and women of Pennsylvania Power and Light, on the 15th anniversary of the FUSE program's founding. May they continue to be champions of diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

CONGRATULATING HAR SINAI CONGREGATION ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Maryland was founded as a haven for freedom of worship, and our state is proud to be home to religious institutions and communities that enrich the life of our state and our country. One of those is the Har Sinai Congregation in Owings Mills. Founded on May 15, 1842, it is the oldest continuously operating Reform Jewish congregation in the United States. This year marks the 175th anniversary of its establishment.

Drawing on practices adopted by some of the first Reform synagogues in Europe, Har Sinai Congregation served a small community of immigrants first in Baltimore and later, as the community grew, in the suburbs. The synagogue's first leader, Rabbi David Einhorn, arrived in 1855 and became one of the central voices of American Reform Judaism in the nineteenth century. The 'Olath Tamid' siddur he published in 1856 went on to become a template for the Union Prayer Book later adopted widely by Reform congregations across the country. Rabbi Einhorn also preached against slavery, a courageous act to undertake in a Southern state where that horrific institution was still practiced. His abolitionism eventually led him to flee to Philadelphia in 1861, escaping a violent, pro-Confederacy riot in Baltimore during the Civil War.

Among the clergy who followed in leading Har Sinai Congregation was Rabbi David Philipson, an American-born scholar and theologian who led the community from 1884 to 1888. A member of the first graduating class of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, he would go on to become one of the most prominent Reform rabbis of his age, authoring books on history, theology, and literature while speaking out against anti-Semitism and, in his later years, the rise of Nazism. Today, the congregation is led by Rabbi Linda Joseph, a native of Australia and the first woman to lead the community, having taken up the pulpit there last year.

Now a congregation of more than 400 families, and with more than 200 students in its religious school, Har Sinai Congregation has become one of Maryland's most active and dynamic synagogues. With the mantra of 'worshipping together; caring together; working together,' its members are putting into practice the ancient Jewish precepts that call for social justice, charitable works, education, and community engagement. On Shabbat and holidays, congregants gather in worship and join in liturgical song, led by Cantor Robert Gerber, as they continue the traditions of American Reform Judaism that Har Sinai Congregation helped establish.

I join in congratulating the clergy, lay leadership, and congregants of Har Sinai Congregation on reaching this milestone in the community's history, and I wish all of them a Shana Tovah U'Metuka—a sweet and happy new year for 5778.

CONGRATULATING THE CHINESE AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Chinese American Medical Society as they host their 54th Annual Scientific Symposium and Annual Red Lantern Gala.

This year, CAMA is focusing on advancing women's health. Throughout its history as one of the most successful national Chinese American Medical Societies, CAMA has sought to eliminate health disparities for Chinese Americans and other underserved minority populations. Each year, the Symposium is an opportunity for many of medicine's most foremost experts to gather, collaborate and ultimately impact lives.

Their annual Red Lantern Gala is a chance to celebrate the ground breaking work of all those who have dedicated their lives to advancing health and well being for Chinese Americans. I'd especially like to salute this year's honorees: Dr. Anna Suk-Fong Lok with the 2017 CAMS Scientific Award, and Mr. Michael J. Dowling, Mr. Peter Lau and Dr. Wai Lap Leung with the Community Service Award.

I applaud CAMA for their unwavering dedication to improving health outcomes for Chinese Americans both in New York City and around the country.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND WILLIAM GLUCK FOR FIFTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend William Herbert Gluck, fondly known as "Preacher Bill," of Andalusia for his fifty years of service to Community Baptist Church.

Preacher Bill was born on October 15, 1936 to William and Catherine Gluck, and grew up in Moline. After graduating from Moline High School in 1954, Preacher Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he served for eight years. After leaving the Army in 1962, Preacher Bill served as a pastor for a short time in Georgia, and volunteered at Central Baptist Church in Moline before finally beginning his impressive tenure at Community Baptist in Andalusia in October of 1967. In August of 1968, Preacher Bill married his wife, Carol, who sadly passed away in 2011. He has been blessed with six children, ten grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Preacher Bill once again for his dedicated service to Community Baptist Church over the last five decades. I wish him, his church, and his family nothing but the very best in all the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING CEDAR CREST COLLEGE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cedar Crest College on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. In 1867, Robert Emmett Wright—a distinguished lawyer and public servant in Lehigh County—envisioned a school which his daughters could attend. On July 12, he joined members of the Reformed Church leadership at Allentown's Zion's Reformed Church in putting a proposal forward to purchase property for Lehigh Female Academy, which would later become Cedar Crest College.

Classes were first held in September, with only eight students in attendance; however, in a year's time, attendance grew, and the school relocated to Clover Nook, at Fourth and Turner Streets. Its name was once again changed to Allentown Female College. Additional classrooms, a library, gymnasium, and a fully equipped art room were added to accommodate the increasing educational interests of the college's growing student body. In 1913, the school moved to its modern day location, and it officially became Cedar Crest College.

Today, Cedar Crest College remains committed to its original goal of providing higher education for women and preparing leaders for the increasingly global community. With a graduate and undergraduate count of over 1,500 students, Cedar Crest College provides a personable and high quality approach to education for local women and those in the nearby states of New York and New Jersey.

It is my honor to recognize the students and faculty who comprise Cedar Crest College on this momentous occasion. Cedar Crest students are both bright and capable, but it is their approach to leadership as service to the community and the world around them that really makes them shine. May they experience continued growth and success over the next 150 years.

COMMEMORATING THE 106TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the people of Taiwan on the 106th anniversary of their republic, celebrated on October 10th. October 10th, known in Taiwan as "Double Ten Day", is revered by the Taiwanese people—just as Fourth of July is here in the United States. It commemorates the Wuchang Uprising, which triggered a revolution that led to the overthrow of China's imperial regime and the establishment of the Republic of China.

Since the Republic of China was founded on January 1, 1912, the people of Taiwan have developed a democracy of which they should be proud. They are our 10th largest trading partner, including more than \$200 million in purchases from my home state of Michigan. They are an economically and socially growing nation, that has recently implemented a single-payer National Health Insurance (NHI) system. This system is similar to legislation that I have been championing in the U.S. House for more than a decade, and which BERNIE SANDERS recently introduced in the U.S. Senate. I believe that America has much to learn from this work, and I am eager to see them succeed in guaranteeing their citizens a universal right to healthcare—a practice America would do well to follow.

I also want to commend the people of Taiwan on their success this past year, in which they inaugurated their first female president—a first not only for the island, but also the first woman elected head of state in Asia in her own right, who was not related to a notable male politician.

I want to congratulate my friends across the ocean and wish them a very happy 106th Double Ten Day.

CAPTAIN OSCAR MEDELLIN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional law enforcement career of California Highway Patrol (CHP) Captain Oscar Medellin, who will retire on September 30, 2017.

After serving honorably in the U.S. Air Force, Captain Medellin was hired by the CHP in 1988. Captain Medellin worked in a number

of capacities during his CHP career, which include the Inland Division Critical Incident Team, Inland Division Investigative Services Unit, and, most recently, Area Commander for Victorville.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to congratulate and thank Captain Medellin for his 28 years of service to the citizens of California. His professionalism and dedication to the profession of law enforcement reflects great credit upon himself and the California Highway Patrol.

CELEBRATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK WOMEN'S TASK FORCE OF TUCSON

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the Black Women's Task Force of Tucson on the event of its 40th anniversary.

The Black Women's Task Force of Tucson organized with the mission of "educating and empowering women through support and networking for equality and success in the Tucson community." Serving as a bedrock of the Tucson community for four decades, it has met its mission statement and more.

The Black Women's Task Force of Tucson provides much-needed access to information on healthcare and business, as well as hosting events and providing a space to share stories with the Tucson community. Part of its community support is assisting local students through a variety of programs and scholarships.

For example, the Black Women's Task Force donated over one hundred computers to students in the Tucson Unified School District and sponsored student trips to Africa and South America with an academic focus. There have been many changes throughout the last 40 years; and many fights won in the pursuit of social and economic equality for women.

However, there is still much work to be done both in Tucson and throughout the nation. I know that the Black Women's Task Force will continue to be a positive force for change. I cannot emphasize enough the impact that this organization has had on the Tucson community.

From helping victims of domestic violence to feeding the hungry, the Black Women's Task Force has worked tirelessly to make our city a better place for everyone. I look forward to seeing the impact the Black Women's Task Force has on the next forty years. For that, it would be my honor to ask that the work done for the past forty years by the Black Women's Task Force be known to this Congress as a force for good in the City of Tucson.

CONGRATULATING CORONADO THEATRE ON ITS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the historic Coronado Theatre in Rockford, Illinois, on their 90th birthday.

The Coronado Theatre was built in 1927, and over the years it has hosted many legendary performers including Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Louis Armstrong, and more recently, Jerry Seinfeld.

Between 1999 and 2001 the theater underwent an \$18.5 million renovation, thanks to the support of the community, the City of Rockford, and Friends of the Coronado, a non-profit dedicated to ensuring the theater will continue to be a community asset for all to use and share. The renovation preserved the theater's history while making much-needed improvements to ensure future generations would be able to enjoy all the theater has to offer. The Coronado Theatre's staff, Friends of the Coronado, and the entire Rockford community should be truly proud of this milestone birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate Coronado Theatre on this momentous birthday, and wish them much success over their next 90 years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THURGOOD MARSHALL

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following Proclamation to commemorate the extraordinary life of Thurgood Marshall and declare October 2, 2017 to be Thurgood Marshall Day in California's 44th Congressional District:

Whereas in 1940 while an attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Thurgood Marshall won the case of *The State of Connecticut v. Joseph Spell*, which helped lay the groundwork for the Civil Rights Movement to come; and

Whereas Thurgood Marshall was the Chief Counsel in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, the landmark Supreme Court decision that declared state laws establishing segregated public schools to be unconstitutional; and

Whereas the Honorable Thurgood Marshall, on October 2, 1967, became the first African-American appointed to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States of America; and

Whereas date of October 2, 2017, marks the 50th anniversary of this historic achievement; and

Whereas the legacy of Thurgood Marshall continues to serve as an example and inspiration to both individuals and groups that continue to fight for justice and equality for all throughout the United States of America: and Now therefore

I declare and hereby recognize October 2, 2017 to be Thurgood Marshall Day in the 44th Congressional District of California.

IN TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CHRISTOPHER J. BARRON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Colonel Christopher J. Barron

upon his retirement from the Army Corps of Engineers.

For 27 years, Colonel Barron had dedicated himself to serving our nation with the Army Corps of Engineers. Colonel Barron, a native of Goshen, New York, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in 1991. His overseas deployments include combat, reconstruction, and peacekeeping missions in Somalia, Haiti, Macedonia, Bosnia, and Iraq. In his last assignment, Colonel Barron served as District Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in New England from July 31, 2014 to July 19, 2017. Prior to this post, Colonel Barron served as the U.S. Army War College's Visiting Defense Fellow at Queen's University in Ontario, Canada.

While serving as District Commander of the New England District, Colonel Barron had many accomplishments including dredging projects, navigation improvement, flood risk management, and environmental restoration. It was an honor to work with him on a wide array of dredging projects in my district and across the Connecticut coastline, and I will certainly miss his knowledge of and passion for water resource programs in our area. He was always accessible and open to input from my office which I greatly appreciated.

Please join me in congratulating my friend, Colonel Barron, on an impressive career of service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and wishing him a wonderful retirement.

IN HONOR OF PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM'S 500TH WIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the 500th win of the Piedmont High School Football Team in Piedmont, Alabama.

On December 1, 2016, Piedmont High School won the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 3A football state title for the second year in a row. The team's very first win was over Cave Spring High School in October of 1924 under Coach J.O. Ogle.

Piedmont High School's football team has had two All-American players, over 100 All-State players and 215 All-County players with six alumni players who have been inducted into the Calhoun County Hall of Fame.

Congratulations to Coach Steve Smith, the football team, Piedmont City Schools and all their loyal fans.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 500th win by the Piedmont High School Football Team. Go Bulldogs.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CARTHAGE LODGE 197

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Carthage Lodge 197 on its 150th

birthday. On the 7th of October, members of this Freemason lodge will gather to celebrate this landmark occasion.

The first organized Grand Lodge met in 1717 in England. Freemasonry has promoted a strong sense of pride, family values and intellectual development in its members over the centuries. Furthermore, Freemasonry has deep roots in the United States, with George Washington himself being initiated into Freemasonry in the year of 1752.

Freemasonry has been part of Missouri and the city of Carthage for generations. The Grand Lodge of Missouri chartered a lodge in Carthage, Missouri in 1849. In 1861 this lodge was destroyed, but no one is exactly sure how this lodge was destroyed. Most likely it was destroyed in the Battle of Carthage during the Civil War. In 1867, former members of the previous lodge and other Freemasons gathered to organize for the chartering of a new lodge to be located in the city. The current Carthage Lodge 197 was granted its charter on October 19, 1867. Members of the lodge meet in this location to this very day.

I am honored to recognize the 150 years of the Carthage Lodge 197 in southwest Missouri. This is truly a historical achievement. On behalf of Missouri's 7th Congressional District, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of Carthage Lodge 197 on its 150th birthday.

HONORING MR. GORDON KLASNA ON BEING SELECTED MONTANA'S PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gordon Klasna on his recent selection as the Montana Principal of the Year by the Montana Association of Secondary School Principals.

Mr. Klasna has been principal of Lockwood's Eileen Johnson Middle School since 2011. Founded in 1954, it provides an education to over 1,250 students. Mr. Klasna is passionate about educating Montana's students and is a positive influence on his students. He is renowned as a hard worker who dedicates much of his time to his vocation. Mr. Klasna is a strong advocate for his school, serving on the School District 2 High School Trustee Board representing Lockwood.

Teachers and students at Eileen Johnson Middle School describe Mr. Klasna as a gracious, polite public servant who demonstrates his passion to help students every day. During his tenure as principal, Mr. Klasna has encouraged the growth of special elective courses to include robotics and journalism.

I wish Mr. Klasna the very best as he works to continue the pattern of excellence at Eileen Johnson Middle School. He is a great example of an educator going the extra mile to help our children succeed. I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Gordon Klasna on his outstanding achievement.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES FOR
THE VICTIMS OF THE SENSE-
LESS MASS SHOOTING IN LAS
VEGAS, NEVADA

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my condolences to the victims of the Las Vegas country music show mass shooting massacre.

I offer my deepest condolences to those personally affected by this cowardly act, and call for the restoration of federal law banning the sale and purchase of assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

On October 1, 2017 the deadliest mass shooting in the history of the United States occurred in Las Vegas, Nevada when, in a heinous act of terror and hatred, 58 persons were killed and 515 others were injured in a shooting at an outdoor concert near the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

Until yesterday, June 13, 2016 marked the deadliest mass shooting in the history of the United States in Orlando, Florida, when, in another heinous act of terror and hatred, 49 persons were killed at Pulse, a popular nightclub, meeting place, and sanctuary for Central Florida's vibrant and dynamic LGBTQ community; sadly, the Las Vegas mass shooting surpassed that dreadful shooting in numbers of dead and injured.

The horrifying events in Las Vegas on Sunday night mark the 273rd mass shooting in the U.S. in the 275 days that have passed so far in 2017, according to Gun Violence Archive.

Mass shootings are a near daily occurrence in America, but what happened in Las Vegas stands out: It was the deadliest such incident in U.S. history, with more than 58 killed and 515 injured.

Including that massacre, the four deadliest U.S. mass shootings have occurred over the past 10 years.

A mass shooting is defined by Gun Violence Archive as any incident in which four or more are shot and/or killed in a single event, at the same general time and location not including the shooter.

Recent U.S. mass shootings include:

1. Las Vegas, 2017: 50+ killed
2. Orlando, 2016: 50 killed
3. Virginia Tech, 2007: 32 killed
4. Sandy Hook, 2012: 27 killed
5. San Ysidro, 1984: 21 killed
6. San Bernadino, 2015: 14 killed
7. Edmond, 1986: 14 killed
8. Fort Hood, 2009: 13 killed
9. Columbine, 1999: 13 killed

There have been more than 11,600 deaths linked to gun violence so far in 2017, which is roughly equivalent to nearly four 9/11 attacks in terms of the total number killed on September 11, 2001.

Comparatively, more than 15 thousand were killed by gun violence in 2016, and there were 383 mass shootings.

It is horrifying to admit that gun violence now seems to be a staple of American life.

The United States ranks No. 1 in the world in terms of firearms per capita—with 88.8 guns per 100 people—and it has the highest homicide-by-firearm rate in the developed world.

The problem is so endemic that gun violence is now the third leading cause of death for children in the U.S.

An average of 1,297 children die annually from gun-related injuries.

Guns are linked to roughly 33 thousand deaths in the U.S. per year; about two-thirds of them are suicides.

According to Pew Research Center, a majority of Americans (across partisan lines) support gun policy proposals such as barring people with mental illnesses from buying guns; prohibiting gun purchases by people on federal no-fly or watch lists; and background checks for private gun sales and sales at gun shows.

The majority must cut its close ties to the powerful gun lobby to facilitate useful gun control legislation necessary immediately.

America has six times as many firearm homicides as Canada, and nearly 16 times as many as Germany.

United Nations data shows that America far and away leads other developed countries when it comes to gun-related homicides.

America has 4.4 percent of the world's population, but almost half of the civilian-owned guns around the world.

In December 2012, a gunman walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, and killed 20 children, six adults, and himself.

Since then, there have been at least 1,518 mass shootings, with at least 1,715 people killed and 6,089 wounded.

The fairly broad definition of "mass shooting" includes not only shootings in which four or more people were murdered, but shootings in which four or more people were shot at all (excluding the shooter).

Even under this broad definition, mass shootings make up a tiny portion of America's firearm deaths, which totaled more than 33,000 in 2014.

On average, there is more than one mass shooting for each day in America.

Whenever a mass shooting occurs, supporters of gun rights often argue that it is inappropriate to bring up political debates about gun control in the aftermath of a tragedy.

For example, former Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, a strong supporter of gun rights, criticized former President Barack Obama for "trying to score cheap political points" when Obama mentioned gun control after a mass shooting in Charleston, South Carolina.

But if this argument is followed to its logical end, then it will never be the right time to discuss mass shootings.

Under the broader definition of mass shootings, America has nearly one mass shooting a day.

So if Congress is forced to wait for a time when there is not a mass shooting to talk gun control, Congress could find itself waiting for a very long time.

States with more guns have more gun deaths.

Within the United States, a wide array of empirical evidence indicates that more guns in a community leads to more homicide.

Higher populations, more stress, more immigrants, and more mental illness does not correlate with more gun deaths.

States with tighter gun control laws have fewer gun-related deaths.

A 2016 review of 130 studies in 10 countries, published in *Epidemiologic Reviews*,

found that new legal restrictions on owning and purchasing guns tended to be followed by a drop in gun violence—a strong indicator that restricting access to guns can save lives.

The good news is that all firearm homicides, like all homicides and crime, have declined over the past two decades—although that may have changed in 2015 and 2016, with a recent rise in murders nationwide.

There is still active debate among criminal justice experts about why this crime drop is occurring—but one theory that researchers have widely debunked is the idea that more guns have deterred crime—in fact, the opposite may be true, based on research compiled by the Harvard School of Public Health's Injury Control Center.

Although America's political debate about guns tends to focus on grisly mass shootings and murders, a majority of gun-related deaths in the U.S. are suicides.

Research that shows greater access to guns dramatically increases the risk of suicide.

The states with the most guns report the most suicides.

Perhaps the reason access to guns so strongly contributes to suicides is that guns are much deadlier than alternatives like cutting and poison.

Reducing access to guns can be so important to preventing suicides: stalling an attempt or making it less likely to result in death makes a huge difference—it opens the opportunity for someone to help or for the suicidal person to reach out to someone to help.

That is why limiting access to lethal means is so powerful.

Since police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, on August 9, 2014, police have killed at least 2,902 people as of May 2017.

Given that states with more guns tend to have more homicides, it is not too surprising that, as a study in the *American Journal of Public Health* found, states with more guns also have more cops die in the line of duty.

Researchers looked at federal data for firearm ownership and homicides of police officers across the U.S. over 15 years.

They found that states with more gun ownership had more cops killed in homicides: Every 10 percent increase in firearm ownership correlated with 10 additional officers killed in homicides over the 15-year study period.

The findings could help explain why U.S. police officers appear to kill more people than cops in other developed countries.

For police officers, the higher rates of guns and gun violence in America means they not only will encounter more guns and violence, but they can expect to encounter more guns and deadly violence, making them more likely to anticipate and perceive a threat and use deadly force as a result.

Over the past 20 years, Americans have clearly shifted from supporting gun control measures to greater support of "protecting the right of Americans to own guns."

This shift has happened even as major mass shootings, such as the attacks on Columbine High School and Sandy Hook Elementary School, have received more press attention.

Although mass shootings are often viewed as some of the worst acts of gun violence, they seem to have little effect on public opinion about gun rights.

That helps explain why Americans' support for the right to own guns appears to be rising

over the past 20 years even as more of these mass shootings make it to the news.

Although Americans say they want to protect the right to bear arms, they are very much supportive of many gun policy proposals—including some fairly contentious ideas, such as more background checks on private and gun show sales and banning semi-automatic and assault-style weapons.

This type of contradiction is not exclusive to gun policy issues.

For example, although most Americans in the past said they do not support Obamacare, but most of them also said they like the specific policies in the health-care law.

On average, 7 children and adolescents lose their lives to gun violence each day, 75 percent of which are under the age of 12 years old.

So many people die annually from gun violence in the United States that the death toll between 1968 and 2011 eclipses the total lives lost in all the armed conflicts in the history of the United States.

On June 7, 2015, a gunman shot and killed nine people at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church Charleston, South Carolina, one of the oldest and largest black congregations in the South.

On November 11, 2009, at Fort Hood, near Killeen, Texas, a gunman shot and killed 13 people, and wounded 30 others.

On August 5, 2012 in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, a gunman shot and killed six people, and injured three others, at the Sikh Temple of Oak Creek.

On July 7, 2015 in Chattanooga, Tennessee a gunman shot and killed five people, including two U.S. Marines and a Naval Officer, and shot and injured two others at a recruiting center and U.S. Naval Reserve Center.

On December 2, 2015 in San Bernardino, California, two gunmen killed 14 people and injured 21 others at the Inland Regional Center.

On December 14, 2012, a gunman murdered 26 persons, including 20 children and 6 school administrators and teachers, at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut.

On August 8, 2015, a gunman brutally murdered his ex-girlfriend and her six children and husband in one of the most notorious cases of domestic violence in the history of Houston, Texas.

On April 16, 2007, a gunman killed 32 persons and injured 17 others at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Mass shootings occur more frequently in states that do not require background checks for all gun sales.

Analyses of mass shootings in the United States between 2009 and 2015 document that the majority of mass shootings occur in venues where the carrying of firearm is not restricted.

In states that require background checks for all handgun sales, including guns offered in unlicensed sales online and at gun shows, there are 52 percent fewer mass shootings.

Congress must take action to prevent other incidents such as the recent act of terror and hatred in Las Vegas, Nevada that resulted in the tragic loss of 58 innocent lives.

We extend our deepest sympathies to all those affected by this tragedy and recognize the skill and heroism of the law enforcement officers and first responders who came to the aid of others.

We commend the efforts of those who are working to care for the injured and investigate this horrific incident.

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families of the fallen, and to all those affected in the community of Las Vegas and in the United States.

And I pledge to continue to work to reduce gun violence and prevent mass shooting.

HONORING THE ANACOSTIA COORDINATING COUNCIL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 2, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Anacostia Coordinating Council (ACC) on its 25th anniversary and the retirement of its chairman Arrington Dixon, for his service to the ACC and the District of Columbia.

Arrington Dixon took his 25th boat ride down the Anacostia River while retiring as chair of the ACC on Saturday, September 30, 2017.

A boatload of District of Columbia residents proudly celebrated the silver anniversary of the ACC boat ride and, particularly, the service of Arrington Dixon as chair of the ACC.

Arrington Dixon has led not only the ACC, but also the ACC's annual boat ride on the Anacostia River. This year's boat ride provided a unique opportunity to celebrate Ward 8 and the one-of-a-kind fellowship offered by the boat ride.

The boat ride also proudly celebrates its sponsoring organization, the ACC. The ACC has been deeply embedded in the life and work of the Ward 8 community since 1983, when it was founded to organize support for the Anacostia Metro.

Arrington Dixon was born in Anacostia. Unlike many civic leaders, Arrington Dixon has held important elected offices in the District of Columbia. He was a member of the first D.C. Council of the District of Columbia (1978–1979), representing Ward 4; chairman of the Council (1979–1983); and at-large member of the Council (1997). In 1995, he was appointed to the National Capital Planning Commission and remains on the Commission. After such distinguished service, most leaders often believe they have done their work. However, Arrington Dixon has continued to serve without portfolio. His service as chair of the ACC is among his most notable civic achievements. He has built the ACC into a formidable organization much-admired for its leadership and many contributions.

Arrington Dixon's decision to retire on the silver anniversary of the ACC boat ride offered an appropriate occasion to recognize his many distinguished contributions to his hometown and to his Anacostia community as well as the contributions of the ACC for its annual boat ride.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing:

Arrington Dixon for his outstanding official and civic contributions to the District of Columbia;

The ACC for its civic and financial contributions to the District of Columbia; and

The silver anniversary of the ACC.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED OCTOBER 4

- 9 a.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine efforts to combat robocalls. SD-562
- 9:15 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing regarding ordered departure of personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuba. SVC-217
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Finance
Business meeting to consider and original bill entitled, "Keep Kids' Insurance Dependable and Secure (KIDS) Act of 2017". SD-215
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Equifax cybersecurity breach. SD-538
- Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 1872, to authorize the programs of the Transportation Security Administration relating to transportation security, S. 1015, to require the Federal Communications Commission to study the feasibility of designating a simple, easy-to-remember dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system, S. 1534, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to amend its rules so as to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land use restrictions, an original bill entitled, "American Vision for Safer Transportation through Advancement of Revolutionary Technologies (AV START) Act", and the nominations of Ann Marie Buerkle, of New York, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Howard R. Elliott, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of

Transportation, and Walter G. Copan, of Colorado, to be Under Secretary for Standards and Technology, Timothy Gallaudet, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, and David J. Redl, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, all of the Department of Commerce.

SH-216

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Dourson, of Ohio, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances, and Matthew Z. Leopold, of Florida, David Ross, of Wisconsin, and William L. Wehrum, of Delaware, each to be an Assistant Administrator, all of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 146, to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, S. 1847, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security, trafficking, and disaster recovery planning, S. 1281, to establish a bug bounty pilot program within the Department of Homeland Security, S. 1769, to require a new or updated Federal website that is intended for use by the public to be mobile friendly, S. 1305, to provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection with adequate flexibility in its employment authorities, S. 1791, to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the "Former Presidents Act of 1958", with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, S. 708, to improve the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to interdict fentanyl, other synthetic opioids, and other narcotics and psychoactive substances that are illegally imported into the United States, H.R. 3210, to require the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau to submit a report on the backlog of personnel security clearance investigations, H.R. 70, to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees, an original bill entitled, "TSA LEAP Pay Reform Act of 2017", an original bill entitled, "Direct Hire of Students and Recent Graduates Act of 2017", an original bill entitled, "Temporary and Term Appointments Act of 2017", an original bill entitled, "Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment Adjustment Act of 2017", an original bill entitled, "FITARA Enhancement Act of 2017", an original bill entitled, "Reporting Efficiently to Proper Officials in Response to Terrorism Act of 2017", an original bill entitled, "Whistleblower Protection Coordination Act", and the nomination of John Marshall Mitnick, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephanos Bibas, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Liles Clifton Burke, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ala-

bama, Michael Joseph Juneau, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Tilman Eugene Self III, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, and John C. Demers, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations; to be immediately followed by a Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues hearing to examine the future of Iraq's minorities, focusing on what's next after ISIS.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Budget

Business meeting to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

SD-608

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 943, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an accurate comprehensive student count for the purposes of calculating formula allocations for programs under the Johnson-O'Malley Act; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine Indian gaming, focusing on new issues and opportunities for success in the next 30 years.

SH-216

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law

To hold hearings to examine Equifax, focusing on continuing to monitor data-broker cybersecurity.

SD-226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Melissa Sue Glynn, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Enterprise Integration), Cheryl L. Mason, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and Randy Reeves, of Mississippi, to be Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, and David G. Zatezalo, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health, both of the Department of Labor, and Peter B. Robb, of Vermont, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board.

SD-430

OCTOBER 5

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gregory Ibach, of Nebraska, to

be Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and William Northey, of Iowa, to be Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, both of the Department of Agriculture.

SR-328A

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul Trombino III, of Wisconsin, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jeffrey Gerrish, of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Industrial Competitiveness), Department of State, Gregory Doud, of Kansas, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, and Jason Kearns, of Colorado, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 1118, to reauthorize the North Korea Human Rights Act of 2004, S. 832, to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of programs under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, S. Res. 245, calling on the Government of Iran to release unjustly detained United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens, and S. Res. 211, condemning the violence and persecution in Chechnya.

SD-419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the Federal response to the opioid crisis.

SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Amy Coney Barrett, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Joan Louise Larsen, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, William L. Campbell, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, Thomas Lee Robinson Parker, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Annemarie Carney Axon, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Michael Lawrence Brown, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Thomas Alvin Farr, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, William M. Ray II, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Eric S. Dreiband, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Robert M. Duncan, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky for the term of four years, Charles E. Peeler, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years, and Brian D. Schroder, to be United States Attorney for the District of Alaska, all of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.		2:30 p.m.		OCTOBER 25
Committee on the Budget		Committee on Foreign Relations		
Business meeting to continue to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.		To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.	SD-419	9:30 a.m.
	SH-216			Committee on Armed Services
				Subcommittee on SeaPower
				To receive a closed briefing on the major threats facing naval forces and the Navy's current and planned capabilities to meet those threats.
2 p.m.			OCTOBER 18	
Select Committee on Intelligence		10 a.m.		
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.		Committee on the Judiciary		
	SH-219	To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice.		SVC-217
			SH-216	

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6237–S6267

Measures Introduced: Five bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1901–1905, and S. Res. 278. **Page S6260**

Measures Passed:

Marine Fish Conservation Statutes: Senate passed S. 396, to make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes. **Page S6263**

Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1616, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6263–64**

McConnell (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1109, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6263**

Cissna Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Lee Francis Cissna, of Maryland, to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security. **Page S6250**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. **Page S6250**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6250**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, October 3, 2017. **Pages S6264–65**

Hargan Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Eric D. Hargan, of

Illinois, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services. **Page S6251**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Lee Francis Cissna, of Maryland, to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security. **Page S6251**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6251**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6251**

Quarles Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Randal Quarles, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2004. **Page S6251**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Eric D. Hargan, of Illinois, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services. **Page S6251**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6251**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6251**

Gingrich Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Callista L. Gingrich, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Holy See, Department of State. **Page S6251**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the

Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Randal Quarles, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2004. **Page S6251**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6251**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6251**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 52 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 209), Ajit Varadaraj Pai, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2016. **Pages S6237–49, S6266–67**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Gregory E. Maggs, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term of fifteen years to expire on the date prescribed by law.

Diana Furchtgott-Roth, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

Nazakhtar Nikakhtar, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Dennis M. Devaney, of Michigan, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2023.

Randolph J. Stayin, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2026.

Barry W. Ashe, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Daniel Desmond Domenico, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Stuart Kyle Duncan, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

3 Army nominations in the rank of general.

A routine list in the Foreign Service. **Page S6266**

Messages from the House: **Page S6260**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S6260**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S6260**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S6260**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6260–61**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6261–62**

Additional Statements: **Pages S6258–60**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6262–63**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6263**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—209) **Page S6249**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:31 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 3, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6265.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Stephen Censky, of Missouri, to be Deputy Secretary, and Ted McKinney, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, both of the Department of Agriculture.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 3894–3912; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. were introduced. **Pages H7670–71**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7672–73**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2229, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide permanent authority for judicial review of certain Merit Systems Protection Board decisions re-

lating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–337, Part 1); and

H. Res. 548, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 36) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–338). **Page H7670**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Byrne to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7639**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:02 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H7639**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened at 5 p.m. **Page H7640**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act of 2017: H.R. 2316, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act and the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to repeal provisions relating only to the Allegheny National Forest; **Pages H7640–41**

Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act: H.R. 1547, to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Tucson, Arizona, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest to the City, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 401 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 544; **Pages H7641–42, H7650–51**

Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park Redesignation Act: H.R. 965, amended, to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the “Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park”, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 401 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 545; **Pages H7642–43, H7651**

Confirming State Land Grants for Education Act: H.R. 2582, amended, to authorize the State of Utah to select certain lands that are available for disposal under the Pony Express Resource Management Plan to be used for the support and benefit of State institutions; **Pages H7643–44**

Community Reclamation Partnerships Act: H.R. 2937, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977; and **Pages H7645–46**

Guides and Outfitters Act: H.R. 289, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to issue permits for recreation services on lands managed by Federal agencies. **Pages H7646–50**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:51 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H7650**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the attack in Las Vegas. **Page H7651**

Senate Referral: S. 770 was held at the desk. **Page H7640**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H7640, H7669.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7650, H7651. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Committee Meetings

PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 36, the “Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a closed rule for H.R. 36. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommend. Testimony was heard from Chairman Goodlatte and Representative Cohen.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1026)

H.R. 3819, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Signed on September 29, 2017. (Public Law 115–62)

H.R. 3823, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to provide disaster tax relief. Signed on September 29, 2017. (Public Law 115–63)

S. 1866, to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for the reallocation rules and authority to extend the deadline by which funds have to be reallocated in the campus-based aid programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965 due to Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Hurricane Maria, to provide equitable services to children and teachers in private schools. Signed on September 29, 2017. (Public Law 115–64)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the political and security situation in Afghanistan, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine Wells Fargo one year later, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the status of energy storage technologies, reviewing today's technologies, and understanding innovation in tomorrow's technologies, 10:30 a.m., SD-366.

Subcommittee on Energy, to hold hearings to examine S. 186, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide that any inaction by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that allows a rate change to go into effect shall be treated as an order by the Commission for purposes of rehearing and court review, S. 1059, to extend the authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 relating to the disposal site in Mesa County, Colorado, S. 1337, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to make certain strategic energy infrastructure projects eligible for certain loan guarantees, S. 1457, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out demonstration projects relating to advanced nuclear reactor technologies to support domestic energy needs, S. 1799, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to facilitate the commercialization of energy and related technologies developed at Department of Energy facilities with promising commercial potential, and S. 1860 and H.R. 1109, bills to amend section 203 of the Federal Power Act, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine international tax reform, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kenneth Ian Juster, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of India, Department of State, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Larry Edward Andre, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti, Peter Henry Barlerin, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon, Eric P. Whitaker, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, Michael James Dodman, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Nina Maria Fite, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, Daniel L. Foote, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia, and David Dale Reimer, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles, all of the Department of State, 2 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the Every Student Succeeds Act, focusing on unleashing State innovation, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John Marshall Mitnick, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Administration's decision to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "U.S. Defense Strategy in South Asia", 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Securing the Peace After the Fall of ISIL", 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Equifax Data Breach: Answers for Consumers", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Examining Patient Access to Investigational Drugs", 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled "Part II: Powering America: Defining Reliability in a Transforming Electricity Industry", 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Sustainable Housing Finance: An Update from the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled "Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability", 12 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled "Examining DHS's Cybersecurity Mission", 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, hearing entitled "Online Sex Trafficking and the Communications Decency Act", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 3400, the "Recreation Not Red-Tape Act", 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Full Committee, begin markup on H.R. 210, the "Native American Energy Act"; H.R. 424, the "Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017"; H.R. 717, the "Listing Reform Act"; H.R. 1274, the "State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act"; H.R. 1488, the "Indiana Dunes National Park Act"; H.R. 2600, to provide for the conveyance to the State of Iowa of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain land in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and for other purposes; H.R. 2603, the "SAVES Act"; H.R. 2897, to authorize the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Director of the National Park Service to enter into cooperative management agreements for the operation, maintenance, and management of units of the National Park System in

the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3131, the “Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act”, 4 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs; and Subcommittee on Transportation and Protective Security of the House Committee on Homeland Security, joint hearing entitled “Innovations in Security: Examining the Use of Canines”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Information Technology, hearing entitled “Cybersecurity of the Internet of Things”, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H. Con. Res. 71, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027, 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Resiliency: The Electric Grid’s Only Hope”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Coast Guard Stakeholders’ Perspectives”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine tax reform and entrepreneurship, 10 a.m., 1100, Longworth Building.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine combating kleptocracy with incorporation transparency, 2:30 p.m., SD-562.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of October 3 through October 6, 2017

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Lee Francis Cissna, of Maryland, to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

On *Wednesday*, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Lee Francis Cissna, of Maryland, to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

Following disposition of the nomination of Lee Francis Cissna, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Eric D. Hargan, of Illinois, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: October 5, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gregory Ibach, of Nebraska, to be Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and William Northey, of Iowa, to be Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, both of the Department of Agriculture, 9:30 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Armed Services: October 3, to hold hearings to examine the political and security situation in Afghanistan, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: October 3, to hold hearings to examine Wells Fargo one year later, 10 a.m., SD-538.

October 4, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Equifax cybersecurity breach, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: October 4, business meeting to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, 2:30 p.m., SD-608.

October 5, Full Committee, business meeting to continue to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, 10:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: October 4, business meeting to consider S. 1872, to authorize the programs of the Transportation Security Administration relating to transportation security, S. 1015, to require the Federal Communications Commission to study the feasibility of designating a simple, easy-to-remember dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system, S. 1534, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to amend its rules so as to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land use restrictions, an original bill entitled, “American Vision for Safer Transportation through Advancement of Revolutionary Technologies (AV START) Act”, and the nominations of Ann Marie Buerkle, of New York, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Howard R. Elliott, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, and Walter G. Copan, of Colorado, to be Under Secretary for Standards and Technology, Timothy Gallaudet, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, and David J. Redl, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, all of the Department of Commerce, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: October 3, to hold hearings to examine the status of energy storage technologies, reviewing today’s technologies, and understanding innovation in tomorrow’s technologies, 10:30 a.m., SD-366.

October 3, Subcommittee on Energy, to hold hearings to examine S. 186, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide that any inaction by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that allows a rate change to go into effect shall be treated as an order by the Commission for

purposes of rehearing and court review, S. 1059, to extend the authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 relating to the disposal site in Mesa County, Colorado, S. 1337, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to make certain strategic energy infrastructure projects eligible for certain loan guarantees, S. 1457, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out demonstration projects relating to advanced nuclear reactor technologies to support domestic energy needs, S. 1799, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to facilitate the commercialization of energy and related technologies developed at Department of Energy facilities with promising commercial potential, and S. 1860 and H.R. 1109, bills to amend section 203 of the Federal Power Act, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: October 4, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Dourson, of Ohio, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances, and Matthew Z. Leopold, of Florida, David Ross, of Wisconsin, and William L. Wehrum, of Delaware, each to be an Assistant Administrator, all of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 10 a.m., SD-406.

October 5, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul Trombino III, of Wisconsin, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 9:30 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: October 3, to hold hearings to examine international tax reform, 10 a.m., SD-215.

October 4, Full Committee, business meeting to consider and original bill entitled, "Keep Kids' Insurance Dependable and Secure (KIDS) Act of 2017", 9:30 a.m., SD-215.

October 5, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jeffrey Gerrish, of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Industrial Competitiveness), Department of State, Gregory Doud, of Kansas, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, and Jason Kearns, of Colorado, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: October 3, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kenneth Ian Juster, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of India, Department of State, 10 a.m., SD-419.

October 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Larry Edward Andre, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti, Peter Henry Barlerin, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon, Eric P. Whitaker, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, Michael James Dodman, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Nina Maria Fite, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, Daniel L. Foote, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia, and David Dale Reimer, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambas-

sador to the Republic of Seychelles, all of the Department of State, 2 p.m., SD-419.

October 4, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing regarding ordered departure of personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuba, 9:15 a.m., SVC-217.

October 4, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations; to be immediately followed by a Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues hearing to examine the future of Iraq's minorities, focusing on what's next after ISIS, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

October 5, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1118, to reauthorize the North Korea Human Rights Act of 2004, S. 832, to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of programs under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, S. Res. 245, calling on the Government of Iran to release unjustly detained United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens, and S. Res. 211, condemning the violence and persecution in Chechnya, 10 a.m., SD-419.

October 5, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: October 3, to hold hearings to examine the Every Student Succeeds Act, focusing on unleashing State innovation, 10 a.m., SD-430.

October 4, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, and David G. Zatezalo, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health, both of the Department of Labor, and Peter B. Robb, of Vermont, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, 3 p.m., SD-430.

October 5, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Federal response to the opioid crisis, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: October 3, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John Marshall Mitnick, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

October 4, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 146, to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, S. 1847, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security, trafficking, and disaster recovery planning, S. 1281, to establish a bug bounty pilot program within the Department of Homeland Security, S. 1769, to require a new or updated Federal website that is intended for use by the public to be mobile friendly, S. 1305, to provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection with adequate flexibility in its employment authorities, S. 1791, to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the "Former Presidents Act of 1958", with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, S. 708, to improve the

ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to interdict fentanyl, other synthetic opioids, and other narcotics and psychoactive substances that are illegally imported into the United States, H.R. 3210, to require the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau to submit a report on the backlog of personnel security clearance investigations, H.R. 70, to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees, an original bill entitled, "TSA LEAP Pay Reform Act of 2017", an original bill entitled, "Direct Hire of Students and Recent Graduates Act of 2017", an original bill entitled, "Temporary and Term Appointments Act of 2017", an original bill entitled, "Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment Adjustment Act of 2017", an original bill entitled, "FITARA Enhancement Act of 2017", an original bill entitled, "Reporting Efficiently to Proper Officials in Response to Terrorism Act of 2017", an original bill entitled, "Whistleblower Protection Coordination Act", and the nomination of John Marshall Mitnick, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: October 4, business meeting to consider S. 943, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an accurate comprehensive student count for the purposes of calculating formula allocations for programs under the Johnson-O'Malley Act; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine Indian gaming, focusing on new issues and opportunities for success in the next 30 years, 2:30 p.m., SH-216.

Committee on the Judiciary: October 3, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Administration's decision to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, 10 a.m., SH-216.

October 4, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephanos Bibas, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Liles Clifton Burke, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Michael Joseph Juneau, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Tilman Eugene Self III, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, and John C. Demers, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-226.

October 4, Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law, to hold hearings to examine Equifax, focusing on continuing to monitor data-broker cybersecurity, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

October 5, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Amy Coney Barrett, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Joan Louise Larsen, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, William L. Campbell, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, Thomas Lee Robinson Parker, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Annemarie Carney Axon, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Michael Lawrence Brown, to be United States District Judge

for the Northern District of Georgia, Thomas Alvin Farr, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, William M. Ray II, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Eric S. Dreiband, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Robert M. Duncan, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky for the term of four years, Charles E. Peeler, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years, and Brian D. Schroder, to be United States Attorney for the District of Alaska, all of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: October 4, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Melissa Sue Glynn, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Enterprise Integration), Cheryl L. Mason, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and Randy Reeves, of Mississippi, to be Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 2:30 p.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: October 3, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

October 4, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

October 5, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: October 4, to hold hearings to examine efforts to combat robocalls, 9 a.m., SD-562.

House Committees

Committee on Education and the Workforce, October 4, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3441, the "Save Local Business Act", 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, October 4, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled "Air Quality Impacts of Wildfires: Perspectives of Key Stakeholders", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

October 5, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled "Powering America: Consumer-Oriented Perspectives on Improving the Nation's Electricity Markets", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, October 4, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the SEC's Agenda, Operations, and Budget", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

October 5, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Equifax Data Breach", 9:15 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, October 4, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled "State Department's Antiterrorism Assistance Program: The GAO Review", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

October 4, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, hearing entitled "Iranian Backed Militias: Destabilizing the Middle East", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

October 5, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Rohingya Crisis: U.S. Response to the Tragedy in Burma", 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, October 4, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3548, the “Border Security for America Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on the Judiciary, October 4, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3711, the “Legal Workforce Act”; and legislation on the Agricultural Guest worker Act, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, October 4, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 210, the “Native American Energy Act”; H.R. 424, the “Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017”; H.R. 717, the “Listing Reform Act”; H.R. 1274, the “State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act”; H.R. 1488, the “Indiana Dunes National Park Act”; H.R. 2600, to provide for the conveyance to the State of Iowa of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain land in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and for other purposes; H.R. 2603, the “SAVES Act”; H.R. 2897, to authorize the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Director of the National Park Service to enter into cooperative management agreements for the operation, maintenance, and management of units of the National Park System in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3131, the “Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act”, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

October 4, Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, hearing on H.R. 146, the “Eastern Band Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act”; H.R. 2402, the “San Juan County Settlement Implementation Act”; and H.R. 2606, the “Stigler Act Amendments of 2017”, 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, October 4, Subcommittee on Space, hearing entitled “Powering Exploration: An Update on Radioisotope Production and Lessons Learned from Cassini”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee On Small Business, October 4, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Small Business Tax Reform: Modernizing the Code for the Nation’s Job Creators”, 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

October 5, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy, and Trade, hearing entitled “High-Tech Agriculture: Small Firms on the Frontier of Agribusiness”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, October 4, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Rail Stakeholders’ Perspectives”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, October 4, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “IRS Reform: Challenges to Modernizing IT Infrastructure”, 9 a.m., 2020 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: October 3, to hold hearings to examine tax reform and entrepreneurship, 10 a.m., 1100, Longworth Building.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: October 3, to hold hearings to examine combating kleptocracy with incorporation transparency, 2:30 p.m., SD-562.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House.

The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through September 30, 2017

	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Days in session	143	139	..
Time in session	863 hrs., 50'	622 hrs., 47'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	6,235	7,638	..
Extensions of Remarks .....	..	1,295	..
Public bills enacted into law	18	46	64
Private bills enacted into law .....	..	..	..
Bills in conference .....	..	..	..
Measures passed, total	297	476	773
Senate bills	77	16	..
House bills	34	308	..
Senate joint resolutions	8	6	..
House joint resolutions	15	19	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	7	6	..
House concurrent resolutions	6	10	..
Simple resolutions	150	111	..
Measures reported, total	*220	*331	551
Senate bills	170	1	..
House bills	24	248	..
Senate joint resolutions	1	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	2	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	1	..	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	..	4	..
Simple resolutions	24	76	..
Special reports	13	5	..
Conference reports .....	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	162	92	..
Measures introduced, total	2,240	4,640	6,880
Bills	1,890	3,893	..
Joint resolutions	49	117	..
Concurrent resolutions	24	83	..
Simple resolutions	277	547	..
Quorum calls	3	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	208	230	..
Recorded votes .....	..	312	..
Bills vetoed .....	..	..	..
Vetoed overridden .....	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through September 30, 2017

Civilian nominations, totaling 457, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	162
Unconfirmed	262
Withdrawn	33
Other Civilian nominations, totaling 715, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	699
Unconfirmed	16
Air Force nominations, totaling 5,457, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,436
Unconfirmed	21
Army nominations, totaling 5,513, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,503
Unconfirmed	10
Navy nominations, totaling 2,842, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	2,840
Unconfirmed	2
Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,313, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,313
<i>Summary</i>	
Total nominations carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominations received this Session	16,297
Total confirmed	15,953
Total unconfirmed	311
Total withdrawn	33
Total returned to the White House	0

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 163 reports have been filed in the Senate, 336 reports have been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, October 3

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, October 3

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Francis Cissna, of Maryland, to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 36—Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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